Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

"Paws For Independence" NEWSLETTER

Summer 1996

Crossing The Road

Two days before departure and she *still* wasn't sure she could handle the challenge. Plagued by doubt, she was having difficulty convincing herself she could handle a guide dog. In the end she listened to the encouraging words of her family and friends. On February 26, 1996 Elaine Anderson reported to Class at Southeastern Guide Dogs. It was a day she will never forget.

They gave her a breed with a funny name. "Vizsla." She had never heard of such a dog before. Elaine understood about dogs. She owned a poodle, Zachary, and kept her son's Shepherd but until they handed her Byron's leash she was unaware of the existence of this Hungarian hunting dog.

Elaine Anderson and "Byron"

Elaine had retinitis pigmentosa. Her sight had slowly been declining over the last 15 years. Her blindness was confirmed when she went to get fitted for safety glasses for her job at Armstrong World Industries. Elaine was astounded to learn she had become "legally blind."

Unsuccessful cataract surgery caused her to finally accept medical retirement five years ago. Elaine managed to make her way around using a cane until she became tired of the limited lifestyle she was forced to accept.

As a way to increase her independence, Elaine decided to apply for a guide dog. As a dog lover she understood the responsibilities of dog ownership and never doubted she had the love to give a guide dog. She also felt a guide dog would give her a sense of security when she traveled through parts of town that were becoming more dangerous with time.

First she had to make it through the rigorous 26 day class. Things went very well until the day Class had to make night walks. Elaine's greatest problem with her vision impairment was night blindness. Nights terrified her and she rarely went out. There would be no choice today.

Despite begging and pleading and her promise to never go out at night, her trainer insisted she complete the night walk. As she and Byron started out she was seized with terror. At the curb she burst into tears. She totally lost confidence. The reassuring words of her trainer helped her. "Elaine," he said. "You must learn to trust your dog."

Summoning every ounce of courage she had left she commanded Byron, "Forward." They began the walk again. With each step she tried to "let go" and trust her dog. It was one of the greatest challenges of her life. After a few more steps the most remarkable thing happened. Elaine began to feel the love Byron had for her coming right through the harness handle! Her hand tingled as Byron

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SEGD Hosts Another Successful Walkathon

Despite gray skies, cool temperatures and intermittent rain SEGDI supporters were out in force. Graduates, Puppy Raisers, volunteers, service groups and staff members as well as the general public turned out on Saturday, March 2 to help raise money to provide guide dogs **free of charge** to a growing list of applicants.

Rain, cool weather and grey skies couldn't deter these walkers

Palmetto was the site once again for the Walk. Over 400 walkers braved the elements. Support groups managing water stations included the Blake Volunteer Auxiliary, AT & T Telephone Pioneers, the Ellenton Lions, ECHO volunteers from Tropicana and the Bradenton/Sarasota Honda Goldwings. The Bradenton Lions cooked lunch for the hungry walkers. Other service groups providing assistance were the Manatee County EMS, Palmetto Police, PACE Center for Girls and the City of Palmetto. Corporate sponsors included The Eye Associates, Rickert Properties, Inc., Plantation Printers, General Propeller Company, Visitec and Nationsbank. Beall's Department Stores, H. Butler Footwear, Liberty National Bank and the American Bank of Bradenton joined a growing list of corporate supporters. Our thanks to one and all.

Southeastern always recognizes special supporters at the Banquet and this year was no exception. Southeastern proudly recognized the following individuals:

Graduate of the Year – Celia Geisenschlag
Volunteers of the Year –Lions Lois and Ray McCabe
Puppy Raiser(s) of the Year – Linda Dragg and Chuck Hietala
Puppy Raiser of the Year (Puppy Dept. Award) – Area Coordinator Phyllis Ulrich
Travelin' Tail Waggin' Award (Puppy Dept. Award) – Lucie Brock

Top Money Raisers for the 1995 Walkathon included:

Celia Geisenschlag – $4,826.00
Ruth & Bob Werner – $3,533.15
Scott Greenblatt – $3025.00

Every table was filled at the banquet at the Holiday Inn that evening. Following a delicious dinner and awards presentation supporters from Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Louisiana and Florida as well as Canada watched the premier showing of SEGDI's newest video, **Paws for Independence.**

After several months of successful ticket sales the raffle winners were announced. Winner of the cruise was Verla Bessing of Winterset Mobile Home Park. Jane Harner of N. Fort Myers won the casino tour of Biloxi. Several miscellaneous gifts from our corporate supporters were given as door prizes. These included dinners at The Outback Steakhouse and Bennigans. A gift certificate for new shoes from Bealls was presented to Macy Swift in recognition of her 10 years of participating in every Walkathon held.

Executive Director Mike Sergeant made the announcement that brought everyone to their feet: this year's total of over $160,000. Once again Southeastern supporters topped last year's record high.

This year's Walkathon was a bi-coastal event as graduate Claudine Grady and guide dog Max staged the "Great Berkeley-Emeryville, California 10K Walk" with members of Claudine's family. Combining a family vacation with their Walk Claudine, husband Charles, Claudine's son, daughter and two grandsons walked in the San Francisco Bay Area on March 3. Claudine also managed to raise enough money to name her **third** puppy!

Everyone needs to mark their calendars for next year's Walkathon to be held March 1, 1997. Let's see if we can set another record.

Ghosts? No, Pace Center for Girls volunteers.

Lions cooking their famous Walkathon Burgers.

Those Puppy Raisers Are At It Again...

Southeastern Puppy Raisers "Put On The Dog"

Area Coordinator Nan Grist's "Mayzie" (Lab) and Theresa Shaver's "Panda" (Aussie) participated in the *Fun in the Sun* fashion show held May 18 benefiting the Jacksonville Humane Society.

The puppies looked smashing in their royal blue puppy coats as they paraded down the runway with models in their fashion finery.

Cindy Crawford has nothing to worry about as Panda and Mayzie still plan on becoming guide dogs. SEGDI was invited to participate in this worthwhile event due to the efforts of long-time puppy raiser Jan Bryant. Southeastern was pleased to be able to support another non-profit agency on behalf of our four-footed canine friends.

Puppy Raisers And Lions Go To The "Extreme" For SEGDI

Area Coordinator Tina Hawks and twelve dedicated puppy raisers worked with the Sebastian Lions Club at the SSI Pro Tour Skysurfing Competition held May 3–5. For those unfamiliar with the sport, skysurfing involves competitors strapping a surfboard to their feet, jumping out of an airplane and showing off their moves for a group of judges. Something not for the weak of heart.

The Pro Tour Skysurfing event was part of the Extreme Games to be broadcast to 112 nations and 181 million households on ESPN, ESPN 2, ESPN International, TSN and the Eurosports Network during July. Tina reports that the puppies and raisers were part of the crowd scene during the awards so we're hopeful SEGDI made it into 181 million households world-wide.

Skydive Sebastian owner Andy Grimwade selected Southeastern to receive proceeds from the event. Monies came from parking fees, food sales and a portion of the jump fees. Hats off to the hardworking volunteers who put in three 12-hour days at this event and did such a tremendous job.

SEGDI Featured on "Good Day, Tampa Bay"

April 1 and 2 were very hectic around campus as camera crews from Channel 13 busied themselves filming our facility. Efforts by puppy raisers Chuck Ray and Bud Games paid off when Channel 13 featured Southeastern on their live spots during the broadcast of "Good Day, Tampa Bay" with reporter Russel Rhodes.

Holiday Cards Are In The Works

Christmas cards are coming! Something new in Christmas cards will be available from Southeastern by September. 1995 cards are still available at the bargain price of $4.00 a dozen.

The Lions Den

St.Pete Lions pose with the van they donated.

The Lions and Southeastern have been very busy the past few months. On March 30 Southeastern hosted Lions District "R" Day. Nearly 100 Lions met at Southeastern for an annual district day. The group was toured, many participated in blindfold walks and a lunch was served by Southeastern. Graduate Al Weiss with guide dog Bragg served as guest speaker.

On April 23 Director Mike Sergeant traveled to the east coast of Florida to receive a check for $8,000. from the Boynton Beach Lions. The money was used to sponsor Richard Rauter and guide dog "Comet" from West Palm Beach. Boynton Beach Lions spokesperson Art Mitchco noted that, "Our group was looking for a way to help an individual or group in a significant way. After contacting Southeastern to learn how we could become involved we were told about Richard. The fact that he is from our community made it a perfect match." Funds were raised by a successful raffle and golf tournament. "The Lions were delighted to sponsor Richard and Comet and plan to sponsor more teams in the future," added Mitchco.

Southeastern wishes to recognize the St. Petersburg Lions and their donation of a new van van. The van will be used by the Puppy Department and features both the Lions logo and the Puppy Department logo.

The Orange Blossom Lions Club are busy raising funds to sponsor two guide dog teams this year. Fund-raisers will be held June 20–22 in the Villages of Ladylake; a spaghetti dinner is scheduled for July 26; a dance sponsored by the Lions will be held on August 31 while the Lionesses will be having their dance on October 12. A bowling tournament is scheduled for September 21. Contact Lions spokesperson Art Emerick at 352/753-7459 for further details or tickets.

Top Dog Talks Teamwork

As always we are grateful for your support and belief in our program, the *Gift of Mobility*. Because of your generosity we are preparing to train our 1,000th guide dog.

As part of the Southeastern family I invite you to share in our excitement as we grow and develop. We have just completed one of our largest expansion programs to date. This program shares the same goal with our other programs: to continually train and provide some of the best guide dogs in the country.

1996–97 have been targeted as our "restructuring years." In addition to building and remodeling our facilities we have also been "building" our staff. Staff members who hold at least 5 year's tenure are known by many of you. But did you also realize that 50% of our present "team" of 36 staff members has been with us two years or less? Most of these new team additions are assigned to the training department — the heart of this organization.

To *Meet the Needs* for the present and our future Southeastern is investing the time to train staff members properly. Those employees hired with the goal of becoming qualified Guide Dog Instructors will undertake an intensive three year Apprenticeship Program. During their on-the-job training they will work under the watchful eyes and knowledgeable guidance of our Director of Training, Training Supervisor and other experienced Instructors.

The Apprenticeship Program involves three phases: health care and maintenance of puppies and dogs during year one; training of adult dogs to be responsible and willing guides is added during year two; and the education of guide dog applicants during the 26 day Class Program rounds out year three. It is our only regret that we cannot award Ph.D's to our Instructors upon successful completion of the Apprenticeship Program as they have demonstrated talent and ability in the areas of animal care, specialized training skills and working with people.

Southeastern appreciates your understanding and support as we take the time to work slowly and carefully towards our goal of 200 guide dog teams annually.

R. Michael Sergeant
Exec. Director, C.O.O.

Southeastern Guide Dogs "Chow Down"

SEGDI has begun using Purina foods in the kennel. In a special agreement with Pro-Visions Pet Specialty Enterprises Southeastern will receive credit for every 600 pounds of Purina-brand foods it uses.

Supporters of Southeastern who have dogs (ours and/or yours) and would like to take advantage of this same savings plan can join the Purina Pro club. As a Pro Club member you'll save 3 cents, 6 cents or 10 cents per pound on Purina brands.

PRO-VISIONS
PRO PLAN
brand PET FOOD

If you show, train, handle, breed, board, trial or feed 5 or more dogs you're eligible for membership. Call 1-800-851-3148 for information and an application. Earn 10 cents per pound on any Pro Plan or Purina O.N.E. dog or puppy food or 6 cents per pound on any regular Purina food. These include Dog Chow, Senior, Hi Pro, Fit and Trim, Puppy Chow, Little Bites, Puppy Chow Chewy Morsels, Nature's Course, Chuck Wagon Lean, Butcher Blend or Grravy.

If you're currently using Purina Foods start clipping those weight circles. For others, this savings program might create an incentive to put your dogs on Purina foods. Contact us for details on how you can help SEGDI by using Purina brand foods. Thanks to Medical Supervisor Gwen Gillespie for making these arrangements with Purina.

Honda Goldwings Visit Southeastern

The Spacecoast Goldwings roared into town on their motorcycles for a special day at SEGDI. Tours of the campus and blindfold walks highlighted the visit of this Florida east coast group interested in helping Southeastern in fundraising activities. Graduate Al Weiss with guide dog Bragg was the luncheon speaker. Special thanks to puppy raisers Bud and Chuck with Vermont and Seabreeze who helped out with sales items and general P.R. Earlier this year the Spacecoast Goldwings displayed their motorcycles at the Melbourne Square Mall. People were asked to vote on their favorite bike. Balloters included a cash donation with their vote. The proceeds were donated to Southeastern. The Goldwings raised enough money at this event to name a puppy, which has been called "Wing."

Flash!

The Space Coast Goldwings are having a Chili Cook-off on Nov. 16 at Kiwanis Island State Park in Merritt Island. SEGD will be there with puppy "Wing" to meet his sponsors.

Southeastern Hosts Guide Dog Council Meetings

Representatives from nine schools met in sunny Florida as SEGDI hosted the semi-annual Guide Dog Council meetings March 21–24. The conference was headquartered at the Holiday Inn Riverfront but participants which included Executive Directors, Training Directors and Veterinary Health Care Professionals were able to tour the campus and observe trainers at work. After three days of meetings, both formal and informal, the conference was declared a success.

Estate Planning

By: Stuart Grout

If you think estate planning is just for the rich and famous, think again. In fact, a good case can be made that the less wealth you have the more important estate planning becomes. With a modest estate consisting of a few thousand dollars, a small life insurance policy and a relatively inexpensive home there is precious little room for waste. Unnecessary probate and legal expenses could make the difference between heirs keeping the family home or losing it.

Most peoples' estates are larger than they think. Is this true of yours? Take a moment to estimate the current value of your estate. In addition to your house and what you have in the bank, don't forget company retirement benefits, profit sharing plans, life insurance, IRA's, investment portfolios and valuable personal possessions. It all adds up.

Once you determine how much you have, you need to decide what you want to happen to it. That's estate planning. The main reason you do estate planning is to make sure the IRS, or any other party, doesn't get any more of your estate than is necessary or than you want them to.

A will is the cornerstone of estate planning and vital to everyone, regardless of estate size. It insures that your assets are distributed to the right people, it speeds up settlement and helps keep administrative costs down. But many times monetary gifts (especially to qualified charities), insurance and various types of trusts also play an important role in estate planning.

If you would like further information on how a gift to Southeastern Guide Dogs can play an important role in your estate plan please call us at 941/729-5665 or fill in the coupon below.

_____ Please contact me on how a gift to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. can play an important role in my estate plan.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Work Phone: (_____) _____

All inquiries will be kept strictly confidential.

Please mail to: Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc., 4210 77th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221

From page 1...

helped Elaine find her confidence and finish the terrifying walk.

Weeks later, after she had graduated and returned home, Elaine and Byron began visiting her elderly mother who was now confined to a nursing home. They made the trip daily. Byron was working double duty as her guide dog and as a therapy dog for the residents of the nursing home. Byron couldn't be happier with all the attention.

One day the doctor delivered some bad news to Elaine. Her mother was declared terminal and only given a short time to live. Elaine and Byron entered her mother's room, determined to remain calm and act natural. Her mother made a special request. She wanted a meal from the restaurant across the street. Elaine took this as a final request from a dying woman, grabbed Bryon's harness handle and headed for the door.

She got to the street and stopped dead in her tracks. To reach the restaurant she and Byron would have to cross six lanes of traffic. She had never done this before. She was suddenly gripped by the same panic she experienced during her night walk. Her confidence evaporated. She was paralyzed with fear.

She remembered her mother's request and how it could possibly be one of the last things she could do for this special woman. Once again the words of her trainer came back. *Trust your dog*. She thought about those words as she and Byron faced a challenge as formidable as the night walk. At least for her. Suddenly the words took on new meaning. Byron never doubted he could handle night walks just as he knew he could cross six lanes of traffic. It was Elaine who lacked confidence. "Sorry Byron," she whispered to her dog. "I'll never doubt you again." But the world heard only two words, spoken without hesitation as they watched a blind woman and her Viszla guide dog step out onto the highway. "Forward, Byron."

They made it across six lanes of traffic safely. And they made it back, too. As her mother enjoyed the special meal Elaine realized that she had crossed more than six lanes of traffic that day. She and Byron had crossed a very busy road — together. And when they returned, they returned together. A team. She smiled as she stroked her dog. From now on it would always be, "Forward, Byron." No turning back.

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 6-10-96

Life Membership

(Any gift of $100, $500, $1,000 or $5,000 to our endowment trust qualifies as life membership)

• *Elaine A. Anderson in memory of Austin Barnes* • *Lucy E. Hall* • *Charles W. Mowery* • *Lion William P. Savio* • *Norman & Phyllis Siskel* • *Joe G. & Elizabeth Warner* • *Isobel E. McKay in memory of Thomas McKay* • *Phyllis Hoffmann* • *Robert & Marion Wolfson* • *Ellen J. Hottel in memory of Ernest L. Hottel* • *Robert L. Allen, Jr.* • *Osceola District* • *Louis A. & Anne M. Parietti* • *Lions Club of Seminole – Helen Rott in memory of Herbert* • *North Miami Marian Lions Club – Bobbie Ann Davis* • *North Miami Marian Lions Club – Charles Hasselback* • *Lion Gladys Utecht* • *John Hannigan* • *William & Paulette Gaar* • *Mintz Elementary School* • *David H. & Lee Gracey* • *Lion Bernard A. Fitzgerald* • *Lion Byron G. Palmer* • *Brother Mark, Karen, Mark & Monica Sprague in memory of Rick Lee Sprague* • *Aunt Betty Wissel in memory of Rick Lee Sprague* • *Grandmother Evelyn Huber in memory of Rick Lee Sprague* • *Mom Rosemary Lee Sprague in memory of Rick Lee Sprague* • *Myron Fottler in memory of Rick Lee Sprague*

Memorials

($100 donation)

• *Louise N. Beman* • *Mrs. Walter "Bud" Breard* • *Lion William J. Brown, Jr.* • *Mae M. Burgert* • *Mary C. Carbone* • *Mary Boland Cilley* • *Joe Daugherty* • *Emma Franz* • *Ms. Mazel "Maw Maw" Furr* • *Maxine Garrett* • *Laila Gorman* • *Julie Hall* • *Marianna Gadek Harter* • *Elfrida Heilbrunn* • *William T. Hockensmith* • *Donna Jacobson* • *PDG Dan Jensen* • *William H. Kendig* • *William Klenk* • *Darren Knopf* • *Sue R. Lisvosky* • *Frank G. Lynn* • *Frederick S. McWatters* • *Gladys D. Maule* • *Roberta H. Morrow* • *Carl W. Morse* • *Ruth Mosier* • *Anton Rochek* • *Jean Vellia* • *William VonVange* • *Charles Eldred Weyll, Jr.* • *Regina Wick* • *Ralph Wilson* • *Vitus J. Zelinskas*

Pet Memorials

($50 donation)

• *"Brutus" – Beloved friend of Mr. & Mrs. J. Lamar Woodward* • *"Whoozit" – Beloved friend of Linda Cartwright* • *"Quincy" – Beloved friend of Steve & Joyce Cleaver* • *"Heidi" – Beloved friend of J.W. Derr, M.D.* • *"Kaptain Courageous" – Beloved friend of Audrey W. Jones* • *"Kojak" – Beloved friend of Pat Keener* • *"Tucker" – Beloved friend of Dr. & Mrs. Albert Kolarskick* • *"Eric" – Beloved friend of Mary & Melvin Pike* • *"My Suzy" – Beloved friend of Marie H. Carman*

Co-Sponsorships

($500 or greater)

• *American German Club – puppy sponsorship of "Schatz"* • *Dave Barnhart – "Bill" & "Harry"* • *Donald & Reva Brandt – puppy sponsorship of "Chad"* • *Jill Carr – puppy sponsorship of "T.J."* • *Center for Positive Living – puppy sponsorship to be announced* • *Patricia & Douglas Chaney – student room and board* • *Ft. Lauderdale Lions – puppy sponsorship of "E.J."* • *Mrs. Ethel M. Fuller – co-sponsor of a guide dog team to be announced* • *Frank Holley – "Sandy"* • *India Associates of Ft. Myers – puppy sponsorship to be announced* • *Richard C. Johnson – student room & board for Teresa "Charlie" Sullivan & "Rebel"* • *King Middle School/Serteen Club – puppy sponsorship of "Max"* • *Knox Family Foundation – puppy sponsorship of "Boomer"* • *Estate of Maud M. Lester – puppy sopnsorship of "Estella"* • *Jean Lienau – puppy sponsorship of "Dorda"* • *Glen & Jean Miller – puppy sponsorship of "Sam"* • *Frances Moulton – puppy sponsorship of "Spotty"* • *Murray Middle School Builder's Club – puppy sponsorship of "Murray"* • *Navy Wives Clubs of America, Daughters in Dixie #300 – puppy sponsorship of "Cecil"; second to be announced* • *Navy Wives Clubs of America, Mayport #201 – puppy sponsorship of "Mayzie"* • *Needlecrafters of Sun City Center – puppy sponsorship of "Radar"* • *Rama Nilsen – puppy sponsorship of "Kirby"*

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 6-10-96

Co-Sponsorships

(continued)

• Palmetto Yacht Club – puppy sponsorship of "Bud"
• Pearl River Kennel Club – puppy sponsorship to be announced
• Space Coast Wings FL Ch.#Z-N – puppy sponsorship of "Wing"
• Jean Van Orden – puppy sponsorship of "Buster"
• Vero Beach Lions Club & Denise M. Pieczynski – student room & board
• Wives of US Sub Vets of WWII, Central Florida – student room and board
• Claire W. Wallingford – student room & board for Julia Lefevere & "Alice"
• Marjory H. Wellborn – student room & board for V. Jeneise Wilson & "Miss Ellie"
• Women's Service League – puppy sponsorship to be announced

1996 Walkathon Puppy Sponsorships

($1,000 or greater)

Wendy Alling – "Tina" • AT & T Bids – "Cody" • William Berg, Sr. – to be announced
• William Berg, Jr. – "Dr. D"; • Bob Brennan – "Chandler" • Lucie Brock – Carmichaell
• Jan Brown – "Snoopy/Shadow" • Bonnie Burnett – "Steven" • Linda Buttstead – "Heidi"
• Jay Carbary – "Dottie" • Steve & Winnie Clark – "King Cole" • John & Jinny Courtney – to be announced
• Paula Crisp – to be announced • Delta Gamma – "Hannah II" • Pamela A. Denson – "David"
• Lorraine & Thor Erickson – "R.J." • Ed Eyre – to be announced • Denyse Eddy – "Saber"
• Mary Finkelstein – to be announced • Bud Games & Chuck Ray – "Montana" • Wayne Genzer – "Bo"
• Jim & Debbie Gibson – Frazer • Celia Giesenschlag – "Taffy II" • Claudine & Charles Grady – "Tobey"
• Ronald Graham – "C.J." • Scott Greenblatt – "Faith" • Andrea Greenblatt – "Nazdak" • Dana Greenblatt – "Levi"
• Barbara Greenbaum – "Cameron" • Denny Hall – "Ann Marie" • Harden/Andersen – "Barry"
• Mike Hatcher – "Jeannie" • Tina Hawks – "Hawkeye" • Kay Hemphill – "Katie"
• Debbie & Chuck Hietala – to be announced • Judy & Jerry King – "Streak" & "Casper"
• Knights of Columbus #5357 – to be announced • Michael Kochan – "Bunny"
• Dennis & Marjorie LaCour – to be announced • Brian & Angela Long – "Prince" • Bradley Mattingly – "Taz"
• Bill & Dot Mazur – "Dottie" • Mark McEwan – "Renegade" • Jacque Miller – "Tex" • P.A.W.S. Ministry – "Job"
• Alan & Rebecca Patrick – to be announced • Jill Prince – "Peppers" • Leah Remsen – "Remsen"
• Karen Sherman – "TI" • Danielle Sheman – "Thor" • Jocelyn Sherman – "Ace" • Nick Sinardi – "Justice"
• Carol Taylor – "Merry" • Phyllis Ulrich – "Anne" (95 Walkathon) and "Cadence"
• John T. Walter, Jr. – Topper • Larry & Betty Weidner – "Bishop" • Ruth & Bob Werner – "Elsa"
• Troy Wood – to be announced • John & Connie Wood – to be announced • David & Donnie Wright – "Alie"

Mobile Home Parks 1996 Walkathon Puppy Sponsorships

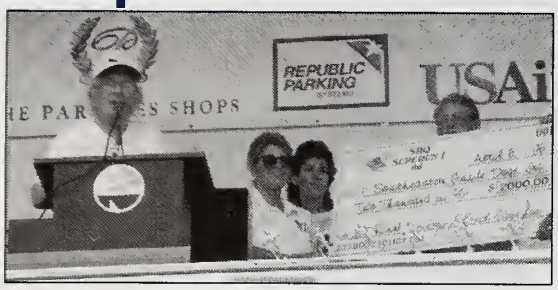
• Bradenton Mobile Home Park – "Radar" • Chateau Village – "Katie" • Coach House – "Coach"
• Country Lakes II Village – "Laker" • Desoto Mobile Estates – "DeDe" • El Rancho – "Paloma"
• Fairlane Acres – "Sparkee" • The Gardens – "Walker" • Jet Mobile Home Park – "Stormy"
• Palmetto Mobile Home Park – "Honeybun" • Plantation Groves – to be announced
• Shadowbrook – "Victor/Vicki" • Terra Ceia RV Resort – "Marti" • Tree Lakes – "Sydny" • Tropic Isles – "Daisy"
• Seabreeze – "Sea"

Full Sponsorship

($9,000 or greater)

• Anonymous – Patricia Lipovsky & "Rupert" • Frances Griffin & Reesa Byrd – 1996 Placement
• Margaret Levine – In memory of Miss Foggy & Miss Tippy
• Larry and Marian Ruf – sponsorship of Elaine Anderson and "Byron"

Superun I Honors Southeastern

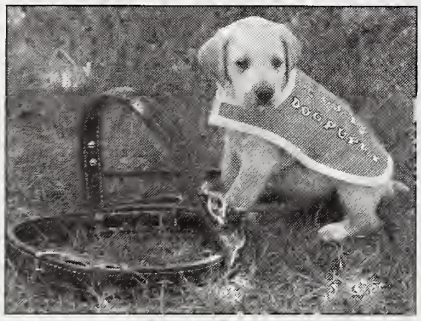


Southeastern was gifted with a $2,000. donation from the proceeds raised at Superun I, a 5K and 10K event held Saturday, April 6 at the Bradenton/Sarasota airport. Nearly 400 runners participated. Graduate Pat Cowan accepted the check on behalf of Southeastern.

Above left: graduate Pat Cowan accepts a generous check on behalf of SEGDI.

Your Legacy

Your support and belief in "The Gift of Mobility" can be expressed in a legacy left for those who follow. Please contact Southeastern Guide Dogs for information on how you can provide



A Promise for Tomorrow

Consult your attorney and be sure to use our full name and address when you

Remember Southeastern in your will.

A GIFT OF LOVE

DON'T FORGET...

1996 2nd Quarter Class Schedule

Runs . . Puppy Raiser Day/Graduation

7/29 – 8/16 . . . . . 8/10

10/14 – 11/1 . . . . . 10/26

Other Events

8/9 – 10 . . . . . Lions Governor's Weekend

11/10 . . . . . **Annual Barbecue**

Internet address: http://www.charities.com

Southeastern Guide Dogs Newsletter

is published quarterly for supporters of Southeastern Guide Dog School.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit corporation devoted solely to the task of helping blind men and women find the travel independence that only a Southeastern bred and trained guide dog can give.

Gifts from our supporters–individuals, service groups, foundations and businesses–fund the many programs that allow us to provide this service free of charge. Southeastern receives no local, state or federal funding.

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Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

"Paws For Independence" NEWSLETTER

Fall 1996

Puppy Raisers Impact South Carolina

Steve and Winnie Clark became puppy raisers 3 years ago. They raised two pups and so enjoyed the work they felt others would as well. They tried to create interest among friends and neighbors in their community of Hilton Head, SC without success. Then they heard about IMPACT (InMates Providing Animal Care and Training).

The Clarks were extremely impressed with the program at Gainesville Work Camp in Gainesville, Florida. They felt that they could start something similar in South Carolina. Not thinking of what they might be getting themselves into they called their state representative who provided them with the name of Michael Moore, Director of the SC Department of Corrections in Columbia. They called Mr. Moore and introduced him to IMPACT. He indicated interest, but needed more information.

Continued on page 3

Belowt: Steve and Winnie look forward to raising their newest SEGDI puppy, "Daisy".

Above: "Miss Ellie" – The dog that sold IMPACT to South Carolina prison officials, now the guide dog of Janisese Wilson.

FREEDOM WALK
The Virtual Classroom

"Would you like to go for a walk?" For some the answer isn't so simple. A walk where? To do what? For SEGDI students there's a whole new answer. FREEDOM WALK!

FREEDOM WALK is a five foot wide landscaped walkway that will embrace the entire SEGDI campus when completed. The walk is designed for use as a practical classroom for training our blind and visually impaired students.

There are five phases of FREEDOM WALK: "First Steps to Independence" is an elementary course where students can practice the straight-line concept. "Pathway to Mobility" runs along Willis Road and has more advanced training sites and includes a "Bus Stop."

"Independence Park" provides the greatest challenge to students and trainers alike. An intersection, stairs, ramps, curbs, a railroad crossing, and various movable obstacles make this phase a true challenge for the students.

"On the Nature Trail" runs along the back of the campus and connects the new Puppy Kennel with "Nature's Sound Walk". "Serenity Pond Walk" runs along

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Web Site: http:/www.guidedogs.org
E-mail: general info segdi@guidedogs.org

Southeastern Welcomes Navy Wives

SEGDI recently enjoyed hosting members of the Cecil Field Daughters in Dixie #300 Navy Wives Club from Jacksonville. Navy Wives Clubs of America is a non-profit national organization made up of Navy, Marine Corps. and Coast Guard wives. Club members Kathy Cayton, Henrietta Loper, Sharon Robitaille, Debi Henry, Marsha Knoruff and Amy Johnson, President of the Southeast Region visited Southeastern on Puppy Raiser day in order to meet their sponsored dog.

"Dixie," a smooth coat Collie introduced the ladies to her new master, Trudy Taylor, as well as her Puppy Raiser, Robin (Quist) Chambers, DVM. Dixie showed off her new skills to her patrons as they watched Trudy and Dixie work together.The group then toured the facility and participated in blindfold walks.

SEGDI is pleased to note that the Navy Wives Club has declared us a South East regional project. We also look forward to hosting this organization at a special recognition day at the School some time in the future.

"Dixie" introduces her new master, Trudy Taylor (c) and puppy raiser Robin Chambers (lower right) to her sponsors, the Daughters of Dixie Navy Wives. Executive Director Mike Sergeant welcomes the group to SEGDI.

Top Dog Talks... Take A Walk With Me

Southeastern is about to break ground on a very ambitious yet worthwhile project.

A sidewalk.

So what's so great — and ambitious — about a sidewalk? This sidewalk leads somewhere special. Not merely to the end of the road.

Our sidewalk, to be called *FREEDOM WALK*, is being built after spending much time listening to our blind students. Over and over I've heard the same thing. Students want to go somewhere to practice the new skills they've learned each day. That "somewhere" needs to be close, safe, yet challenging. It needs to be a place the blind student can go to work through things with his new guide dog at his own pace. As the blind student and his guide dog work together on *FREEDOM WALK* they will also learn to build confidence in one another.

FREEDOM WALK has been designed with the student in mind. It's being built in phases so that the student has the opportunity to overcome different challenges. For those students with slight vision *FREEDOM WALK* will offer contrast colors in the sidewalk itself in the form of bricks set in the path. Those needing work on their Orientation and Mobility (O & M) or "tactile" skills will be challenged by curbs and turns to navigate as they learn "route memorization." Students who cannot identify landmarks any other way will learn "sound identification" as they listen to things — like a fountain — along the route.

FREEDOM WALK will not take our students down some garden path. Students using the walk will be "blazing a trail" as they learn to work together with their dog as a team. Sure, they'll make mistakes. It won't be easy. It's not meant to be simply a walk in the park.*FREEDOM WALK* is meant to be a challenge. A learning tool. It's where dog and student learn the most important lesson of all — to trust each other.

FREEDOM WALK is not simply for the students. The walk is being built as a means to ensure the future of Southeastern. Our supporters have already put so much into this guide dog school; we don't want to lose our momentum. We all want to see Southeastern continue to succeed. You're contribution to *FREEDOM WALK* is an additional way you can ensure the security and financial stability of this school.

We're very thankful for all the contributions we receive. They are what keep the school going on a day-to-day basis. But in order to maintain Southeastern for future generations of students we need a special project like *FREEDOM WALK.*

So c'mon. Let's take a walk. Together.

R. Michael Sergeant
Executive Director, C.O.O.

From page 1...

Winnie called Southeastern and material about the Gainesville program was immediately sent out. Steve and Winnie then drove to Gainesville, FL and observed the program in action. They spent time with Linda Hall, program coordinator, and learned everything they could. Armed with a videotape about the Gainesville program they returned to SC. The Clarks managed to get an appointment with the prison officials. They were told that they had only 30 minutes to show the video and explain the program. The Clark's arrived in Columbia "armed" (with the video and puppy Miss Ellie) and "dangerous" (dangerously serious about initiating the program in SC).

"Miss Ellie sold the program. She didn't even need us to do it. After watching the film and seeing Miss Ellie the prison officials were asking not 'how' but 'when,'" chuckles Winnie when she recounts the experience. "And our 30 minutes turned into a 90 minute planning meeting." said Winnie. Now there was no turning back.

"Fortunately things fell into place quickly," explained Winnie. By February the Dept. of Corrections was ready to go and June 1, 1996 was the date set for the first puppies to arrive at Ridgeland Correctional Institution in Ridgeland, SC. "We managed to get concrete for the runs and sunscreen for cover donated," said Winnie. "Fencing was something the prison had in abundance," she said with a smile in her voice. "We also managed to get the SC Lions interested in the project, which was a tremendous help."

The Lions jumped on the bandwagon and grabbed the bull by the horns. They came through with donations of dog food and have since endorsed the IMPACT program as a state project.

Overall there has been tremendous support from the community and lots of donations. The program itself has been very well received. But it has taken lots of hard work on the part of the Clarks. "They say ignorance is bliss," said Winnie. "If we had really known what it would take to get this program off the ground, we might have rethought." Southeastern and the prisoners are glad they didn't.

Since the program was inaugurated in June the Clarks have remained busy. Steve drives to the prison 3 times a week to work with the program and conduct weekly obedience sessions. Steve and Winnie are continually working to promote the program and solicit donations. Puppies will spend one weekend a month in private homes.

Although it wasn't easy, the Clarks feel all their efforts are worthwhile. Steve remembers being out with the inmates and their puppies promoting the program. The inmates were amazed by the positive reception they received. "Why do you think that is?" asked Steve of one man. "Could it be because you are doing something people can admire and respect you for?" The inmate shook his head in amazement. It was something he had never experienced before in his life.

We wish to recognize the efforts of several people who have been instrumental in making **IMPACT** a reality. They include *Dr. Lane* of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. The program is his brainchild and without his persistence with the Florida Dept. of Corrections the program would never have been initiated.

We also salute *Linda Hall* of the Gainesville Work Camp. Linda has been with **IMPACT** since its start as a pilot program in 1991. She is now Program Coordinator. As such she is involved in the selection process of the prisoner puppy raisers, oversees the program and schedules social trips for pups and prisoners. When asked why she was selected for this special job her answer was simply, "Because I love animals." Don't we all.

In South Carolina we recognize *Mr. Mike Moore*, Director of the SC Department of Corrections. Mr. Moore sold the program to everyone involved in the prison system in South Carolina. It was his unflagging belief that made the program happen in his state.

Warden *Douglas Taylor* was responsible for implementing the program at Ridgeland. In other words, he built the kennels.

Linda Brickle, Administrative Assistant at Ridgeland, is to be commended for her continued cooperation as she learns the program. Linda serves as a liaison between Ridgeland and the Clarks.

IMPACT did not happen overnight. Years of hard work and the cooperation of many people who truly believed in the merit of the program has made it successful.

Southeastern Salutes Contributors To The 1995-96 Combined Federal Campaign Or Workplace Campaign

Southeastern wishes to recognize members of the federal workforce or employees of businesses that participate in United Way campaigns who have chosen to support us via the Combined Federal Campaign or Workplace Campaign. Your contributions have helped Southeastern Guide Dogs to transform many puppies into dogs that have become the eyes for blind men and women throughout the country.

Your continued support and recommendations to family or co-workers who can participate is greatly appreciated. We are #1817 for the CFC Campaign; for local/state employees and the United Way Campaigns our number varies. SEGDI supporters combined efforts are making it possible for us to graduate our 1,000 guide dog team in 1997!

SEGDI Announces Gift Shop Opening

Long overdue, Southeastern has officially opened a "gift shop" in the Administration Building. Featuring favorite items like t-shirts, sweatshirts and coffee mugs, the SEGDI gift shop is being managed by new staffer Karen Begley. Karen brings to SEGDI past experience in retailing, which makes her ideal for this job. Next time you're at the School stop by and check things out. Our gift shop features many items that make great gifts. Christmas is just around the corner...

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 6-10-96

Life Membership

(Any gift of $100, $500, $1,000 or $5,000 to our endowment trust qualifies as life membership)

Carol L. Audette • Marco Island Lions Club, Inc. - Lion William Brown • Marco Island Lions Club, Inc. - Lion Thomas Benedik • Dominic Lorenzo in memory of my sister Debra Lynn Lorenzo • Selwyn Bluestein • Joan Brennan • Lena M. King • Neil C. Morehead • Dorothy Renshaw in memory of Norman Renshaw • Phyllis Ryan • Rita Princivalli in honor of "My Wilson" • Richard E. & Martha W. Donnor in memory of "Daisy" • Allan I. Morris • Carol Snyder • Richard C. Johnson • Cecilio & Sara Lim • John D. Phelan • Stan Rockey, PDG • Carol Hobby in Honor of Wayne Genzer & "Kojak" • Dr.Charles Bellenger • Mrs. Nancy Bellenger

Memorials

($100 donation)

Fred H. Alkire • Nicholas "Bud" Blazy • Bruce Doring • Albert S. Feininger • Samuel Gans • Samuel L. Gardiner • Robert M. Hoffman • Julia M. Hurst • PDG Lion Sidney J. Ogletree • Verner L. Ott • Catherine M. Pierson • John Rossell • Elsie Schier • Morris K. Seckman • Bernice D. Stahl

Pet Memorials

($50 donation)

• "Indian" - Beloved friend of Pat & George Burnett • "Otto" - Beloved friend of Lorraine & Thor Erickson • "Caleb" - Beloved friend of Ross McClafferty • "Crystal" - Companion & friend of Bernita Kinsey • "Puff" - Beloved friend of Charles & Joan Poehlmann

Co-Sponsorships

($500 or greater)

• The Bates Foundation - 4 room & board sponsorships: Gary Hester & "Rudy", Polly Hester & "Angel", Bill Wiggins & "JoJo", Jane Olinger & "Conner" • Dan Blalock, Jr. - puppy sponsorship of "Bright" • Donald & Reva Brandt - puppy sponsorship of "Chad" • Jill Carr - puppy sponsorship of "T.J." • Fort Lauderdale Lions - puppy sponsorship of "EJ" • Robert & Susan Genito - puppy sponsorship to be announced • Eugene & Pat Greiner - 1996 Walkathon puppy sponsorship of "Amy" • Estate of Maud Lester - puppy sponsorship of "Estella" • Glen & Jean Miller & Margo Ford - puppy sponsorship of "Pepper" • Frances Moulton - puppy sponsorship of "Spotty" • The Murray Foundation - co-sponsorship of Magnolia Lyons & "Quinton" • 'Nam Knights Motorcycle Club of America - puppy sponsorship of "Knight" • Navy Wives Clubs of America, Daughters in Dixie #300 - puppy sponsorship to be announced • Navy Wives Clubs of America, Chapter #86 - puppy sponsorship of "Jaxie/Jaxson" • P.A.W.S. Ministry - 1996 Walkathon puppy sponsorship of "Job" • Seminole Lions/Margaret Brown - co-sponsorship of Rosemary Chmiel & "Roxie" • Russell G. & Dolores M. Vinson - puppy sponsorship to be announced • Mrs. Janis M. Williamson - room and board sponsorship

Full Sponsorship

($9,000 or greater)

Anonymous - Paul Lawrence & "Vicki" • Estate of Clarice Sueffert - Paul Pellegrino & "Mr. T" and Selwyn Bluestein & "O'Brien" • Arthur L. "Bud" Johnson - to be announced • Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Martin - John Ryan & "Elliot" • Mrs. Sylvia M. Williams - Tara Kelley & "Qatar"

Correction from last newsletter: under "Co-Sponsorships" American-German Club/co-sponsorship of "Schatz" should read American-German Club of the Palm Beaches.

SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOG'S

SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT

Laying the Foundation for our Next Hundred Years of Service to Blind Persons

A program which qualifies you for membership in Southeastern's **Freedom and Independence Society**

Paws for Independence®

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®

4210 77th Street East, Palmetto, Florida 34221

Telephone: (941) 729-5665 Fax: (941) 729-6646

SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS, INC.

Presents

Second Century Endowment

Southeastern Guide Dog's introduces our *Second Century Endowment* program; a new, exciting way to turn your **affordable contribution** into a **MAJOR GIFT!** This is an innovative way to help build a lasting endowment for the future needs of our community.

Giving Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

Friends, Donors and Volunteers play a key role in sustaining our programs. Now, through a unique Life Insurance gifting program, you have the opportunity to ensure continued funding for the future... even reaching beyond your lifetime.

Our **Second Century Endowment** program is the foundation on which Southeastern will build its commitment of quality care and service delivery. Your gift becomes a perpetual legacy towards our goal.

How Our Donors Benefit

- You will be recognized immediately for the face value of your policy
- Your Life Insurance proceeds pass to Southeastern Guide Dog's, Inc. Second Century Endowment Fund free of taxes and probate
- Your contributions (premium payments) are tax deductible

Second Century Endowment

GIFT	BENEFIT
Existing Policy * Name Southeastern	Surrender value is a tax deductible donation
Newly Purchased Insurance Policy * Use your own agent	Premium is a tax deductible donation
Southeastern's "Automatic Endowment" * No medical exam or agent * Only your signature required	Contribution is a tax deductible donation

Fulfilling Your Commitment

Your Generous Participation Through this Unique Gifting Plan Will Provide Substantial, Continuing Support for Decades to Come.

To participate, submit the confirmation form below to:

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.
4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, Florida 34221

****

INSURANCE GIFT CONFIRMATION

I would like to establish an ENDOWMENT LIFE INSURANCE gift to provide continuing benefits to *SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS, INC.*

My insurance gift will be:

( ) An existing policy
( ) A new policy purchased from my insurance agent
( ) A new policy obtained with the "Automatic Endowment Pledge Card" on the reverse side of this confirmation

Donor Signature _____ Date _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Automatic Endowment

"Automatic Endowment" is a simple way for donors to establish a major gift benefiting Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. Your tax deductible contribution will establish an endowment policy worth from $5,000 up to $100,000.

- Absolutely no personal or medical questions are asked
- No physical examinations are required

All It Takes Is Your Signature

Your contribution, either with a 5-year pledge or a one-tIme contribution, plus your signed Automatic Endowment Pledge Card are all that are needed.

Annual Contribution -- 5 Year Pledge

GIFT AMOUNTS	$5,000	$10,000	$25,000	$50,000	$100,000
Donor's Age 18 - 30	$250	$400	$1,000	$2,000	$4,000
31 - 40	$400	$600	$1,500	$3,000	$6,000
41 - 45	$500	$800	$2,000	$4,000	$8,000
46 - 50	$600	$1,000	$2,500	$5,000	$10,000
51 - 55	$700	$1,200	$3,000	$6,000	$12,000
56+	Individualized Insurance programs are also available at these ages to coordinate with estate and gift planning.				

A One-Time contribution is 10% less than the five year total, and creates the same gift amount.

****

AUTOMATIC ENDOWMENT PLEDGE CARD

I would like to establish an ENDOWMENT in the amount of _____

I wish to establish this gift in honor/in memory of _____

My Contribution will be:

(a) $_____ annually for five years
(b) A one-time contribution of $_____

I authorize *SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS, INC.* to purchase this insurance policy on my life and agree *SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS, INC.* will be both the owner and beneficiary of the policy.

_____ _____
Insured name Social Security Number

_____/ _____/ _____ ( ) Male ( ) Female
Birthdate

_____ _____
Insured Signature Date

From page 1...

the North edge of the pond by the dormitory to a perfect place for a picnic and to relax. In all there are 4,190 linear feet of landscaped walk.

Other features of FREEDOM WALK include: an area for curb practice with both asphalt and shell surfaces, a flagpole and "noisy" fountains as audio guides to the park for the blind and visually impaired students, different textured surfaces and landscaping as "landmarks" and drinking fountains for dogs and people.

Trainers, volunteers, dog walkers and guests can also take advantage of this exciting new addition to Southeastern's campus. Markers along the walk will inform visitors about a particular training area, its purpose and its sponsors.

Here's the real news: Phase I, "First Steps to Independence", is scheduled to be completed by the November Barbecue. Engraved bricks will be used to identify donors of every step along the way, and plaques will be used on the park benches, picnic tables, lamp posts, and training sites.

Brochures are being prepared with illustrations, and a complete site plan of the "new" SEGDI campus. These will be available at the Barbecue and by direct mail. For more information call us at the School. We are happy to discuss this new project with you.

Don't miss SEGDI's newest addition: FREEDOM WALK. Dedicated to the future students of Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®

The Lions Den

SEGD Celebrates The Dog Days Of August

Things never seem to slow down around Southeastern. The weekend of August 9-10 saw us hosting the annual Lions Governors weekend and a Puppy Raiser Day on the 10th.

Lions Governors, Vice Governors and District Drive Directors from the state of Florida and Governors from the state of Alabama arrived Friday afternoon. They enjoyed a reception and dinner at the Holiday Inn Riverfront where they also previewed our newest film, *Paws for Independence*.

On Saturday the Lions observed Puppy Raiser Day and met students from their particular districts. Afterwards our guests toured the School, participated in blindfold walks and enjoyed a picnic-style lunch prepared on our grill.

SEGDI staff and volunteers did a remarkable job of coordinating the various groups. Thanks, also, to several members of the Bradenton Lions who helped with cooking and serving.

Thanks to the SEBRING LIONS for the donation of two golf carts. Southeastern was in need and the Lions came to the rescue. Two new carts were delivered in July and will be used to transport guests to the various kennels as they tour the facility.

Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind president Bill Forrest with Lab puppy go for a spin in SEGDI's newest van donated by the Foundation.

Our students are now riding in style. The FLORIDA LIONS FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND provided a grant that was used to purchase a special Ford shuttle van. The van is designed to hold 13 but was customized for SEGDI and comfortably seats nine students and their dogs. This new vehicle was welcomed by the Training Department.

SEGD Employee Update

Southeastern congratulates Trainer-Assistants ***Deana Button*** and ***Heidi Ilgen*** on their recent promotion to Apprentice Trainer. Deana and Heidi now begin a 3-year apprenticeship program eventually leading to certification as an Instructor/Trainer.

Welcome back to ***Diana Herold*** following the birth of her son, Tyler. Diana will now be overseeing the whelping of puppies at the Puppy Kennel. Trainer-Assistant ***Paula Lawrence Brown*** has been promoted to the position of Kennel Manager of the Training Kennel.

SEDG says goodbye to Instructor/Trainer ***Denny Nowiski***. Denny is leaving the guide dog field to pursue other interests. We all wish him good luck.

Southeastern welcomes new employees:

- ***Robert Spence***, new Trainer-Assistant
- ***Karen Begley*** in Administration. Karen, also known as Jodi, is in charge of our new gift shop. She also coordinates inventory and the purchase of all office supplies.
- ***Dina Mercadante*** joins Administration as Human Resources Rep. Dina will be supervising benefits administration, worker's comp. programs and coordinating employee relations.

Trainer/Instructor ***Don Muisener*** moves to the position of Graduate Services/ Admissions Director. Don will be working with graduates, processing applications, coordinating follow-ups and home interviews and, in his spare time, substitutes for our regular trainers!

Kim Marlowe-Brown is now responsible for our Development Department. Kim works with Executive Director Mike Sergeant on Foundation appeals, estate planning requests, Capital Expansion, the Sponsorship program, data management and schedules presentations and speakers.

Congratulations to Puppy Program Director ***Julie Aichroth*** on her recent appointment to the Manatee County Commission Animal Control Advisory Board. Julie will serve a two year term and advise the county on animal related issues.

Contact SEGD On The Information Highway

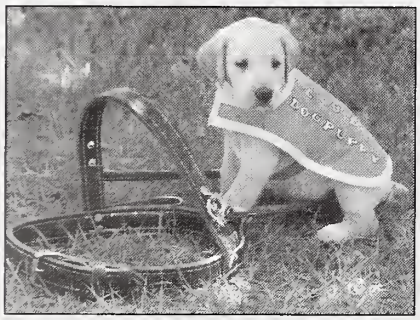
Southeastern is on the World Wide Web. Our new home page is located at:
http:/www.guidedogs.org

You may now E-mail individual staff members. Simply address your correspondence to the person using their first initial and last name, then our internet domain. For example, you could reach Director of Training Rick Holden via:
rholden@guidedogs.org

If you would like to send general correspondence to Southeastern, E-mail to:
general info segdi@guidedogs.org

Your Legacy

Your support and belief in "The Gift of Mobility" can be expressed in a legacy left for those who follow. Please contact Southeastern Guide Dogs for information on how you can provide



A Promise for Tomorrow

Consult your attorney and be sure to use our full name and address when you

Remember Southeastern in your will.

A GIFT OF LOVE

DON'T FORGET...

Calendar of Events

Graduate Council Meeting..... 9/13–15
Class V 10/14–11/1
Puppy Raiser Day..... 10/26
U.S. Guide Dog Council Meetings/NY..... 10/24–26
Annual Barbecue..... 11/10

Southeastern Guide Dogs Newsletter

is published quarterly for supporters of Southeastern Guide Dog School.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit corporation devoted solely to the task of helping blind men and women find the travel independence that only a Southeastern bred and trained guide dog can give.

Gifts from our supporters–individuals, service groups, foundations and businesses–fund the many programs that allow us to provide this service free of charge. Southeastern receives no local, state or federal funding.

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Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

"Paws For Independence" NEWSLETTER

15 Years Service to the Blind

Summer 1997

The Americanization of Claire

Let me begin by saying that Claire Todd is as American as you or I. Despite being born and raised in England, Claire can proudly call herself an American because in 1995 she became a citizen of our wonderful country.

She's been blind, however, since seven months of age and that didn't change with the citizenship. She thought about getting a guide dog for many years but didn't think she could handle one.

In 1981 she met Richard, a dashing American military man stationed in England, and after a whirlwind courtship they were married in July of 1982. Marriage meant moving to the United States but Claire was open to the adventure. She and Richard settled in New Mexico for the next 15 months and welcomed the birth of their daughter, Laura.

Another transfer - back to England - and another baby; a son this time who they named Adam. Three years later Richard was posted to Florida and Claire, a successful medical transcriptionist, decided that it was time for a guide dog. Ironically it was the guide dog school in England that recommended Southeastern - not so much because the school was located in Florida where Claire was moving but because they respected our training methods and felt they were compatible with the English school.

Claire made application and was paired with a golden retriever named Kelly. Although Claire loved Kelly very much their working relationship wasn't perfect so Claire returned and was given a yellow female Lab named Vista. All this occurred as Desert Storm broke out and Claire was preparing to send her husband to Saudi. Richard, fortunately, was not called up and Claire brought Vista home. Life continued relatively peacefully until Hurricane Andrew hit. The Todds lost everything.

It would seem that Claire moved from one crisis to the next. Andrew, although devastating, helped them turn a page in their life. Richard retired from the military and the Todd's moved to Alamagordo, New Mexico intent on starting their lives over. They only had their insurance money and lots of hopes and dreams.

It wasn't long before Claire experienced another tragedy. Crossing the road one day with Vista guiding, a speeding car came out of nowhere. Vista, doing what she was trained to do, body-blocked Claire and saved her life. Fortunately Vista suffered only minor injuries and since the accident happened right in front of Vista's vet office, Vista's injuries were attended to before Claire's!

But life is never simple for Claire. For unexplained reasons Vista became ill 18 months later - and died of an intestinal blockage. Not fair. Certainly not for a woman who had moved to another country, lived through Desert Storm, lost everything in Hurricane Andrew and whose life had been saved by this magnificent animal. Worse yet, the Todd's really didn't have the money to get Claire back to Florida for another guide dog.

Vista was well-known in Alamagordo and people began to notice that she was no longer with Claire. Following a newspaper interview with a friend of Claire's, the town took action. The article appeared in the Sunday edition and by Monday evening Alamagordo had raised $1,000 to help Claire get another guide dog.

Claire, continued on page 2

Claire Todd and Bali

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Web Site: **http:/www.guidedogs.org**
E-mail: **general info segdi@bhip.infi.net**

1997 Walkathon... Another Record Breaker!

The weather couldn't have been more perfect - warm and sunny - for over 600 walkers ready to tackle the 10K route. Graduates, puppy raisers, supporters and residents of the local community gathered on Saturday, March 1 in Palmetto, Florida for the 11th annual Southeastern Guide Dogs *Paws for Independence* Walkathon.

As walkers took to the streets the Bradenton Lions fired up the grills to prepare a picnic lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone. Thirsty walkers could stop at rest stops along the route for some refreshing juice or water provided by enthusiastic supporters cheering them on. Thanks to rest stop sponsors Columbia/Blake Hospital Auxiliary, The Bradenton-Sarasota Honda Goldwings, Tropicana "Echo" volunteers,Telephone Pioneers and Palmetto Mobile Home Park.

That evening the banquet and awards dinner was held. Sold out as usual, guests gathered to recognize the achievements of:

Graduate of the Year: Al Weiss and guide dog Bragg

Volunteer of the Year: Lion Sam and Bea Eisenbaugh (Bradenton Lions)

Puppy Raiser of the Year: Karen Sherman of Texas

Top Money Raisers: Lucie Brock - $5,939.50, Celia B. Giesenschlag - $5,694.70, and Bob Werner - $5,510.00.

Puppy Department Awards to Ginny Courtney and Puppy Raiser of the Year to Bob Werner.

Above right: Marian& Harold Modlin with Gunter at Walkathon. Will Oprah's book club be next??

Below: Puppy Raisers pose for a group shot after completing walk

Many thanks also to corporate supporters The Eye Associates, NationsBank, Rickert Properties, Plantation Printers, Beall's Department Stores, Liberty Bank, Visitec, Pharmacia-Upjohn and Dr. & Mrs. Billup.

This year entertainment was provided by graduates Steve Gladstone and guide dog Recon as Master of Ceremonies, Nancy Luce (guide dog Rusty) on piano/vocals, Mike Tindell (guide dog Paige) also on the piano, Lynn Williams (guide dog Jaala) doing vocals. Staff member Millie Waigand, another talented singer, was also part of the talent lineup.

In addition Director of Training, Rick Holden, was recognized for 10 years of dedicated service to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

A total of $190,000 was raised, surpassing last year's total of $170,000. Funds raised by this event are used to continue our guide dog raising and training programs.

Claire, continued from page 1

If it were only that simple.

Southeastern informed Claire that no space was available and she would have to wait at least six months. After everything she had gone through, Claire had reached her breaking point. She didn't think she could survive six more months. So she responded the only way she knew how. She prayed. And selfishly, she acknowledges, she prayed for something to happen so that she could get a dog quickly.

It did. And it involved death. Again. This time it was a graduate who passed away and his dog became available. Southeastern felt this dog was perfect for Claire, and so they called. Rules require that the student can only learn about the dog but cannot learn its name. But Claire prodded and pestered. It was critical. She had to know what dog she would be paired with. And it slipped. "Bali."

Claire was not simply coming for another dog. Claire was coming for Bali. And that's what was so important to Claire. "If Vista could have talked she would have told me to move on. She would not want me to sit at home," Claire told me one day. "But I needed to know WHO." With that, Claire rounded the corner. Her life had new meaning. She had something to look forward to. She could deal with her grief.

"I felt badly that someone had to die in order for me to get another guide dog," she said. "But I had suffered an enormous tragedy as well." With death there is rebirth. Claire and Bali were starting a new life together after experiencing their own personal losses.

Claire, continued on page 10

Take the Freedom Walk Towards Life Membership

We're off and running. Phase I of Freedom Walk, Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. newest campus addition, is near completion and plans for Phase II are being finalized. Already students and visitors alike are enjoying Freedom Walk. But we have a long way to go.

For anyone who would like to be recognized in lasting tribute, the following contribution will make that possible:

- $100: Engraved *brick* set in Freedom Walk
- $1,200: *Park Bench* recognition with name set in one of the park benches along Freedom Walk
- $2,500: *Picnic Table* recognition with your name set in one of the tables in the picnic area.
- $3,000: *Street Light* recognition with your name engraved on one of the street light poles along Freedom Walk.
- $9,000: Your name placed in one of the Freedom Walk *Crosswalks*.

Elements of the Walk have been selling well. Currently the following naming opportunities are still available in Phase I:

- 3 street lights
- 4 picnic tables

We encourage you, also, to buy the few bricks that are still available for Phase I. In a new program designed specifically for Freedom Walk supporters, each brick purchased will also entitle you to Life Membership.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. Life Membership

A Life Membership is a personal commitment to Southeastern Guide Dog's future. In order to provide funds for the guide dog teams of tomorrow an Endowment Trust has been established. The Endowment Trust is a restricted fund. Only the interest it generates may be used, thus ensuring the school's future. A gift to the Endowment Trust is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

A $100 donation entitles the donor to an engraved brick on Freedom Walk, a Life Membership Certificate and a Life Member lapel pin. Becoming a Life Member shows your willingness to contribute to the future of Southeastern Guide Dogs on a regular basis.

Reservations are also being taken for elements in Phase II. There will be bricks ($100.) and benches ($1,200.) and special naming opportunities include:

- $9,000: *Brickwalk at Main Entrance*
- $9,000: *Drinking Fountain*
- $9,000: *Brick Crosswalks (2)*
- $3,000: *Streetlights (7)*

The opportunity to have a engraved brick on Freedom Walk and automatic enrollment in the Life Membership Program is available on a limited basis. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to provide a lasting contribution to the Students of Southeastern and their guide dogs.

Employee News Notes

Top Dog Mike Sergeant talks about the growing pains Southeastern is experiencing as we grow and expand to better service the blind community. This expansion includes new personnel. Welcome aboard to the following new employees:

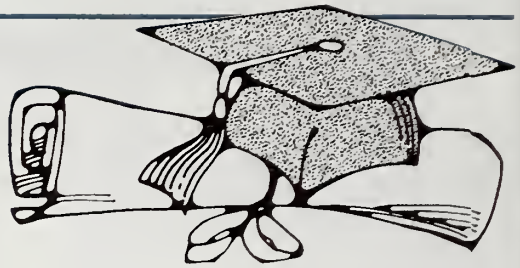
- Amy Rutkowski (1/97) - new Administrative Assistant to the Puppy Program
- Michelle Husby (9/96) - Part-time Administrative Assistant to the Puppy Program
- Michele Brice (9/96) - Kennel Assistant to the Training Department
- Karen Freeman (12/96) - Part-time Kennel Assistant to the Training Department
- James Farnell (2/97) - Kennel Assistant to the Training Department
- Erin Deans (4/97) - Weekend Kennel Assistant to the Training Department
- Ann Stein (4/97) - Part-time Kennel Assistant to the Training Department

Welcome back, also, to Juli Carman who was on a medical leave from the Puppy Department.

Not to be overlooked...special congratulations to Apprentice Trainer Jim O'Donnell who completed his 3 year tenure on 12/1/96 and assumed the position of full-fledged Trainer/Instructor.

The "Kennel Krew" enjoying a day with the dogs.

Graduate Update



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of several of our graduates. Our heartfelt sympathies go to the families of Will Kuhlman (guide dog Libby) who passed away on November 18, 1996. Craig Copeland (guide dog Denmark) from Class I-94 passed away on April 3, 1997. Lillian Schroeder (guide dog Rene) Class II-92 died on January 12, 1997. Malone Rogers (guide dog Weston) of Class VIII-94 passed away on January 15, 1997.

Congratulations to Eva Crowder (guide dog Oreo) on their graduation from the University of Central Florida May 3, 1997. Eva and Oreo are graduating from UCF with a Masters Degree in Mental Health Counseling. Best of luck!

Welcome to the Board! Graduate Pat Cowan (guide dog Bart) has accepted an appointment to the Southeastern Guide Dogs' Board of Directors. Pat is the first graduate to have a seat on the Board and we're delighted she has accepted the position. We all know that Pat will have a positive impact and offer the Board a unique perspective.

Marian Lund Modlin (Class III-94) has written a book about her guide dog. Titled "Gunter: A Guide Dog," Marian recounts her experiences with Gunter, a smooth-coat collie, over the last three years. Available through Southeastern, the cost is $14.95 for the book or an audio-tape version. If you can't stop by to pick up a copy include $2.00 additional to cover shipping and handling. The Modlin's are donating profits from the book to Southeastern.

Top Dog Talks... Growing Pains

In our Winter edition I wrote about our achievements over the past 15 years. It's been a long, hard struggle but I can say with confidence, WE ARE HERE - and we're here for the long haul. We'll be commemorating our 1,000 guide dog team in June and as someone said recently, we're no longer the "new kid on the block."

So let's take out the crystal ball and attempt to look into our future. We've got some really exciting plans. A big focus for Southeastern will be on our Outreach Programs. This school has a strong commitment toward taking our services to the home area. We feel this is the key element for training into the future. In that respect we have established our first satellite training base in Charlotte, North Carolina with Sue Abramovitch heading up our training efforts. Sue has been training guide dogs for 13 years and been affiliated with Southeastern since 1987.

Sue will not only maintain dogs in training but also be busy establishing a puppy raiser program in her area. As an Outreach trainer she will be available to conduct home training within a two hour driving radius of her location. She will also be available for follow-up with Southeastern graduates in her area. The advantage to Outreach programs is improved response time to graduate inquiries because the trainer is right there, in the community.

Although we are not going to focus solely on Outreach it's going to be a big part of our mission in the upcoming years. We feel Outreach is critical for a number of reasons. By offering our services in multiple areas we are going to better serve the mobility needs of a wider range of applicants. There are many types of students who are unable to come to us in Florida, despite their needs for a guide dog. Homemakers with small children; those with specific health problems who need to be near their medical professionals; senior citizens who find it difficult to travel outside their home area.

Outreach has other advantages. It hastens the guide dog's acclimation to the new area by having he and his new teammate work the very streets where they live. Many students' ability to succeed is improved by having them learn in the comfort of home surroundings. Having Southeastern represented in new and different locations helps promote our programs in a wider geographical area.

Bottom line, Outreach helps Southeastern fulfill a promise we take very seriously - LIFETIME COMMITMENT. We have worked hard to establish a strong presence in the guide dog industry. We have worked even harder to develop programs to address the type of students that many schools are unable to service. We have listened to these people and want to reach out - in the best way we know possible. And that means setting up camp and working with them right in the trenches of their own neighborhoods.

The work we have before us, the goals we have set - none of it is going to be easy. But nothing has come easy for Southeastern. If we are to grow and develop, we have to continually challenge ourselves. And that's why they call it growing PAINS.

R. Michael Sergeant
Executive Director, C.O.O.

The Lions Den

The Lions, as always, have been busy supporting Southeastern in a variety of ways. On February 22 District "O" spent time on campus for the annual Visitation. Over 125 members attended, toured the campus and went on blindfold walks. The group enjoyed a luncheon prepared by Southeastern. At that time the group presented checks to the School for $8,000. and $5,000 respectively.

Southeastern is also very appreciative of the overwhelming support various Lions clubs have given to the Freedom Walk. We would particularly like to salute the Lake Alfred Lions Club whose entire membership contributed. Many thanks to the following:

David Adams
Anna Mae Ahring
Harvey Ahring
Marilyn Anderson
Woody Armstrong
George Atterson
Jan Baumlet
Clarence Bordner
Robert G. Brigman
Barry Cartwright
Harriett Cartwright
Howard L. Cross
Walter C. Dean
Sam DeVito
Frank Dibling
Eileen Falciano
John Falciano
David Fawcett
Rita Fawcett
J. Tom Gardner
Bob Gerber
Jerry Goff
Carol Gretencord
Tom Gretencord
Bill Hagy
Lolo Hagy
Phillippe Hebert
Alice Henson
Harold Henson
George Hester
Nancy Hester
Sandy Hough
Dr. Esaam Ismail
Lee Johnson
Mickey King
Anita Lamberton
Wally Lamberton
Terry Maynard
Hunter McNeer
Dick Meese
Danny Monroe
John Mewman
Douglas Pepper
Robert Riley
David Rousch
Tom Rush
John Sherrick
Jesse Stevenson
Arthur Sweimler
Jeannine Theriault
Ronn Theriault
Sheilah Theriault
Elaine Thomas
Orrin Thomas
Steve Walenczyk
Lester Ward
Martha Ward
Larry Ware
Maggy Williams
Harry Williams
Jimmie Cotton
Allen Dean
Jeff Erickson
Cicely Lentz
Donald Miller
Jake Shugarts
James Wininger

Southeastern recognizes the Orange City Lions Club whose membership ALSO contributed in Full. We will publish the list of their names in our next issue.

Other Lions clubs whose members have contributed to Freedom Walk include:

Bartow Knights Lions Club
Peter Benton
Alfred Chiles
James Whitaker
Ron Abraham
Lee Pearson
Mike Whitaker
Tallie Abraham
Carl Troup
Bonita Springs Lions Club
PDG Ken Shivel
Don Miller
Bradenton Lions Club
Past Intl. Pres. Bill Chandler
Richard Ernest
Sam & Bea Eisenbach
Brookridge Lions Club
8 names pending
Englewood Lions Club
George R. Davies
Florida National Lions Club
Jacksonville Metropolitan Lions Club
4 names pending
Key Largo Lions Club
Tom Klimszewski
Mulberry Lions
Palm Harbor II Lions Clubs
Renee Sas
Al Mayer
J. Consolino
Betty Rau
Dave Speed
Panama City Lions Club
8 names pending
Parkway Lions Club
Richard Price
Dr. Timothy Moore
Alcin Parsonsr
Terry Glover
Juanita Segerst
Mike Arnold
Port Charlotte Lions Club
Robert D. Clymer
Robert C. DeCosmo
Gil M. Gildan
Shirley Gilmore
Ada Wallace
Royce Wallace
Dick Shade
Ken Weinland
Bill Hare
Maury Kelber
Bob Hull
Ribualt Lions Club
John McKieran
St. Petersburg Beach Lions Club
Nell Thames
Pat Miller
Alma Held
Mae Winans
Nina Luse
Sebring Lions Club
Susan Shroeder
Lois Schroeder
David Bliss
Jean Bliss
Sun City Center Lions Club
Bud Fuller
Ed Gorman
Titusville Lions Club
Lion memorial Paul A. Swope

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

Paws for Independence

1st Annual Golf Tournament

What: Four-person Scramble

Where: Tara Golf & Country Club. (Take I-75 to exit 41. Go west ½ mile to Tara entrance on left and follow signs to clubhouse.

When: September 27, 1997
1:00pm Shotgun

Entry Fee: $75 per person
Includes driving range, cart, practice green awards and gourmet buffet dinner (cash bar available).

Features & Events:

- Hole-in-One Contest on each par three
- Putting Contest
- Closest to the Pin
- Door and Raffle Prizes
- Mulligan and Raffle Tickets $5 ea or 3/$10

Info: Cathie Newitt: 941/746-9747
Pat Cowan: 941/753-9538
School: 941/729-5665

Enter your own foursome or as a single or a twosome to be matched!

Golf Tournament Registration/Entry Form

Enter by September 12,1997! Registration is limited to the first paid 144 golfers.

Name Address Phone Handicap

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Mail registration form and entry fees to: SEGD Golf Tournament, Tara Golf and Country Club, 6602 Drewry's Bluff, Bradenton, FL 34203. Make checks payable to SEGD Golf Tournament.

Does Your Estate Plan Include A Living Trust?

By: Stuart Grout

Pay out rates for gift annuities were increased as of March 1, 1997. These rates, as established by the American Council on Gift Annuities, are used by *Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.* and many non-profit organizations throughout the nation to determine the amount of lifetime income donors receive from Gift Annuities. The new rates are approximately .5 to .8 per cent higher than the old rates which have been in existence since January 1, 1994.

The accompanying table compares the old and new rates for gift annuities as well as the amount of guaranteed annual income a beneficiary of a gift of $10,000.00 would receive for life. In addition, the donor is eligible for a substantial immediate deduction from Federal income taxes and part of the yearly income is tax exempt.

Age	Old Rates	New Rates	Yearly Pymt
60	6.1%	6.9%	$690
65	6.5%	7.2%	$720
70	6.9%	7.7%	$770
75	7.7%	8.4%	$840
80	8.8%	9.4%	$940
85	10.0%	10.5%	$1050
90	11.0%	12.0%	$1200

Two Lives

Ages	Old Rates	New Rates	Yearly Pymt
60/65	5.8%	6.6%	$660
65/65	6.0%	6.8%	$680
70/70	6.3%	7.1%	7.1%
75/75	6.8%	7.5%	$750
80/80	7.5%	8.2%	$820
85/85	8.6%	9.2%	$920
90/90	10.2%	10.8%	$1080

If you would like a personalized confidential projection of the yearly income and tax advantages of a gift annuity, please call us at 941/729-5665 or FAX your request to us at 941/729-6646. An e-mail request should be sent to kbrown, **segd@bhip.infi.net**.

The purpose of this article is to provide accurate information of a general character only. Advice from legal counsel or a professional advisor is recommended when considering changes to your own estate plans.

The coupon below is available for your convenience.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

One Life ☐ Two Life ☐

Birthdate Single Life: _____

Birthdate Second Life: _____

H.O.G.'s For Dogs

No, we're not talking about pigs that think dogs are the greatest thing invented since slop. We're talking about a group of thoughtful people who think Southeastern Guide Dogs are second only to their motorcycles - Harley Davidson's in particular.

The Harley Owner's Group (H.O.G.) Florida Sunshine Chapter discovered Southeastern Guide Dogs and made us a fundraising project. Under the direction of Jerry Macy the group raised a total of $3,000 by hosting a motorcycle show at Hooters Restaurant in Brandon. The monies raised by the event were used to name a guide dog, "Sunshine," a black Labrador Retriever and to endow a bench on Freedom Walk.

The group, which is made up of Harley fanciers of all types including mechanics, lawyers, police officers and airline pilots, have visited Southeastern twice. These visits have included campus tours, blindfold walks a delicious lunch and the opportunity to meet Sunshine! Because of the efforts of terrific support groups like the Harley Owners Group Southeastern can continue to provide the Gift of Mobility to qualified candidates.

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 4/21/97

Life Membership/Freedom Walk

(Any gift of $100, $500, $1200 or $1500 to our endowment trust qualifies both for life membership and a brick on Freedom Walk)

Bette M. Albanese
Roberta L. Barton
Bearcat Financial Services
Dorothy Beckwith
Jane C. Beddow
William & Carlene R. Byard
Nick Colantonio
John & Jinny Courtney
Tessie M. Cox
Alice & Vincent DeLosso
Phyllis E. DiPaolo
Frederick Duda
Patricia & Don Dumont
William A. Dunham
Arlie Ellen Elliott
Dorothea Farrell
William W. Few
William & Bobbie French
John J. & Norma J. Gannon
William L. & Janis C. Glass
Karen L Groth
Sophie K. Hachtel
Mary N. & Lester M. Hall
Carl & Jocelyn Hargrove
Arthur Harris Foundation
Patricia Hempel
Edward C. Hildreth, Jr.
Gladys E. Hoy
Robert M. & Nedra E. Joyce
Alfred E. Junod
John W. & Josephine A. Kearney
James E. Kennady
Dennis & Marjorie LaCour
Elizabeth LaCour
Mary Ellen Lawler
John D. Lawrence
William A. & Joan E. Laymon
Charles Leon
Tony & Lanaine LiCalsi
Evelyn H. Lissy
Robert Logan
Paul L. & Lisa H. McKean
Dina M. Mercadante
Isabelle M. Miller
Harry L. & Nancy P. Morgan
Anna H. Morris
Russell E. Murdock
NationsBank-Commercial Banking
Peter Nault, CSC
Cathie Newitt
Mary E. North
Mary G. O'Meara
Lindell W. & Jo Orr
S. Janette Perry
Norman L. & Kathryn Polenz
Bernice C. & Albert Rollins
Harry & Betty Schaaf
Arthur & Bonnie Scott
Hilda L. Seitz
Karen & Steve Sherman
Thomas O. & Elaine L. Sloan
Patricia C. Smith
Myndi Rosenfeldt Sorrell
Sunshine H.O.G.
Dale & Andy Tessler
John & Edith Tipler, Sr.
United Methodist Women of SCC
William & Vivian Webster
Al Weiss
Co. Randall & Glenda Wooten
P.E.O. Chapter G
William & Lillian Petrelak
Stanley & Betty Preston
Sally & Thomas Rondeau
Eileen S. & Robert J. Schaefer
Shonna Seawell
Martha S. Shackelford
Harris & Micheline Silverman
Don M. & Connie Smith
Sandra C. Snow
John Robert Stone
Macy & Bob Swift
Ashley E. & Eleanor M. Thomas
Hellen & George Tullis
John J. Vellia
Raymond & Wavelet Weigel
Curtis A. Weyll
Richard & Mary Lou Wutzler

Memorials

($100 donation in memory of those who have passed away)

Richard Beauchamp, Sr.
Donald E. Beckwith
Earnest Carriere
Robert L. Day
Charles A. & Edith Frizzell
Elizabeth Garrigues
Elizabeth K. Greeley
Jack D. Hamburger
Margaret Hightower
Bob Holmquist
Amber Hudson
Johanna Jochim
Marion Keegan
Hilda Liden
Anna Martinelli
John McKiernan
Berardo Mesa
Elva Miller
LaVerne Peterson
Harold Sandberg
Eleanore Saxton
Don Sheldon
Ludwig P. "Skotty" Skotnes
William E. Thomas
Michael Totten
John W. Travers, Sr.
Bird Waddill

Pet Memorials

($50 donation)

"Missy" - beloved friend of Mrs. William Benny
"My Sweet Mutt, Daisy" - Beloved friend of Mrs. Virginia Best
"Angie & Holly" - Beloved friends of C. Lee Boatwright
"Legion" - Beloved friend of Pat & George Burnett
"Pokey" - Beloved friend of M. Marie Burg
"Poppy" - Beloved friend of Priscilla M. Elder
"Patch" - Beloved friend of Mary (Joy) Johnson
"Heidi" - Beloved friend of Floyd Lippert
"M.A.S.H." - Dear friend & companion of Irene V. Maloy
"Romeo" - Beloved friend of Jackie & Doug Mentzer
"Peaches & Cream #35" - Beloved friend of Marilyn & Hank Naylor
"Tiffany" - Beloved friend of Phyllis M. Romanow
"Nessie" - Beloved friend of Merle S. Sharpe
"Rags" - Beloved friend of Julie Scott & Ray Velboom
"Stormy" - Beloved friend of Kaaren R. Webb

Co–Sponsorships

($500 or greater)

John H. & Else B. Terwilleger - room & board for Eliza Ignaczak
Humanitarians of Florida, Inc. - room & board for one graduate
Joseph & June Snyder - room & board for John D. Lawrence
St. Pete Lions Club - co-sponsor of Lion Charles Tabor
Gabriel Schmergel - room & board for Misty Lynn Beninato
Tropic Isles Marina - room & board for Orville Smith
Tom & Rosemarie McDill - room & board for Samuel Grant
Janice C. Hutchinson - room & board for Lois Kilgore
Gibney Family Foundation - room & board sponsorships for Percy Garrett and Tamara Waldman, Cindy Rose and 5 additional graduates
Ruth S. Dreier - room & board for two graduates
Edumae Babe Brockmyer - room & board for one graduate
Delta Gamma - room & board for two graduates

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Continued from page 8

Full Sponsorships

($9,000 or greater)

Anonymous - sponsorship of Dawn Petito
Arthur L. (Bud) Johnson Foundation - sponsorships of two (2) guide dog teams
Dr. Anthony & Doris Martin - sponsorship of a college student
Mr. & Mrs. Francis McCune - sponsorship of "Kim," and "Harp"
Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club - sponsorship of 1997 placement
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ruf - sponsorship of "Golden Cobb"
Don and Connie Smith - sponsorship of 1997 placement
Polk Foundation - sponsorship of 1997 placement

Puppy Sponsorships

American German Club - to be announced
Clearwater East Lions Club - "Missy Berdara"
Ft. Lauderdale Lions Club - to be announced
Goldwings Chapter FL2-D - to be announced
Manatee Memorial Hospital Auxiliary - "Fargo"
NWCA #86 - "Jaxson" and a third puppy name to be announced
Sunshine H.O.G. - "Sunshine"
Veterinary Medical Clinic, Inc. - "Kate"
Villas Del Sol Hobby Club - "Winona"
Diane M. "Dee" Bennett - "Boyd"
Susan & John Bolton - "Navigator"
Everett S. Emerson - "Buffy"
Victoria A. Hamilton - "Clementime"
Alfred E. Junod - "Dolly"
Robert & June Smedley - "Louie"
Don & Connie Smith - "Benjamin," "Betsy," and "Maggie"
Mildred Weiler - "Fritz"

Puppy Sponsorships From The Walkathon

(Sponsorships achieved by funds raised for the Walkathon)

W. Ken & Barbara J. Andersen - "Jenel"
Elaine A. Anderson - "Austin"
Robert P. & Emer Brennan - "Conwell"
M. Lucie & Bobby Brock - to be announced
Janice E. & Richard Brown - "John T."
Jan Christopher Brown - "Joseph"
Bonnie & Cecil Burnett - to be announced
Communities Foundation of Texas - to be announced
Richard & Angie Carroll - to be announced
John & Jinny Courtney - to be announced
Denyse J. Eddy - "Dixie"
The Eye Associates - to be announced
Thor & Lorraine Erickson - to be announced
Mary & Edgar Finkelstein - to be announced
Bud Games & Chuck Ray - "Starr"
Wayne Genzer - "Miles"
James D. & Deborah S. Gibson - "Maxwell"
Celia Giesenchlag - to be announced
Claudine & Charles Grady - "Bootie"
Ronald G. Graham - "Chief"
Barbara Greenbaum - to be announced
Scott Greenblatt - "Odie"
G.C. (Denny) Hall - to be announced
Mike & Judy Harrison - "Cookie"
Kay & Mike Hemphill - "Diamond"
Chuck & Debbie Hietala - to be announced
Heritage Farms (4-H Group) - "Heritage"
Tom, Sandy & Shannon Kenny - "Shiloh"
Judy & Jerry King - "King"
Michael Kochan - to be announced
Nancy Marie-Luce - "Finnegan" or "Miami"
Sue Masters - "Savannah
Donald E. & Tara Maule - "Jake"
William J. & Dorothy A. Mazur, Jr. - "Miss D"
Johnny Ray McNeal - "Lierty"
Cara Nagele - "Lily"
Jill & Barry Prince - to be announced
Leah B. Remsen - "McKee"
Natalie & David Royer - "Joy"
Karen Sherman - to be announced
Orville Smith - "Mize"
George & Phyllis Ulrich - to be announce
John T. Walter - "Walter"
Maureen Weigold - "Sonar"
Robert H. & Ruth Werner, Jr. - "Griffin"
John & Connie Wood - to be announced
David & Donna Wright - to be announced

Puppy Sponsorships Raised By Mobile Home Parks

Bradenton Tropical Palms - "Gill"
Chateau Village MHP - "Kip"
Coach House - "Andie"
Country Lakes II Village - to be announced
El Rancho Village MHP - "Paladin"
Fairlane Acres - "Sweetie or Clint"
Jet MHP - to be announced
Lincoln Arms MHP - "Pilot"
Palmetto MHP - "Penny"
Pelican Pier - "June"
Plantation Groves - to be announced
Plaza Mobile Court Estates - "Chris"
Seabreeze Mobile Estates - "Burnsy"
Shadowbrook MHP - "Scout"
Terra Ceia RV Resort - "Toby"
The Gardens - Buddy"
Tree Lakes Resort - "Scooter"
Tropic Isles MHP - "Princess"
Tropical Garden Travel Trailer Park - to be announced
Winterset MHP - to be announced
Special Recognition:
Desoto Mobile Estates
Fiesta Grove RV Park

Claire, continued from page 2

So the guide dog who lost a master and the master who lost a guide dog found each other. They left this morning to begin their new life together. But this being Claire, life won't be peaceful for long. "We're leaving New Mexico for Arizona," she told me. "Richard is already there and we will join him as soon as the house sells." I tip my hat to people like Claire. They can move around the globe, make it through wars and hurricanes and death - but it never stops them. Blindness? Why, we never even discussed it.

Afterword

The funds raised by the citizens of Alamagordo were used to pay Vista's vet bill, Claire's transportation to Southeastern a brick on Freedom Walk dedicated to Vista, and a gazebo bench. The account has not yet been closed. Southeastern is grateful to the kind citizens of Alamagordo who loved Vista and Claire so much.

Your Legacy

Your support and belief in "The Gift of Mobility" can be expressed in a legacy left for those who follow. Please contact Southeastern Guide Dogs for information on how you can provide

A Promise for Tomorrow

Consult your attorney and be sure to use our full name and address when you

Remember Southeastern in your will.

A GIFT OF LOVE

DON'T FORGET...

Calendar of Events

Class III	4/14 - 5/9
Puppy Raiser Day	4/26
CPA Attorney BBQ	5/7
Class IV	6/2 - 6/27
Puppy Raiser Day	6/14
Class V	8/4 - 8/29
Puppy Raiser Day	8/16
Lions Governors Weekend	8/8-9
1st Annual Golf Tournament	9/27

Southeastern Guide Dogs Newsletter

is published quarterly for supporters of Southeastern Guide Dog School.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit corporation devoted solely to the task of helping blind men and women find the travel independence that only a Southeastern bred and trained guide dog can give.

Gifts from our supporters–individuals, service groups, foundations and businesses–fund the many programs that allow us to provide this service free of charge. Southeastern receives no local, state or federal funding.

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941-729-5665
941-729-6646 – Fax

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LIONS INTERNATIONAL

ICA Independent Charities of America

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Palmetto, FL 34221

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11 Penn Plaza Ste 300
New York, NY 10001

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

"Paws For Independence" NEWSLETTER

15 Years Service to the Blind

Fall, 1997

Milestone Achieved – 15 Years, 1,000 Guide Dogs

The Story of Lynn Lacey

I hung up the phone and paused a moment to catch my breath. Just talking to this woman exhausted me. Lynn Lacey's life runs at top speed, despite what some people consider to be the "limitations" of blindness. After speaking with Lynn you realize that life – including her personal goals – has no limits. She rivals anyone I've met in terms of personal and professional accomplishments.

Who better to represent the 1,000 guide dog team? Lynn, and her newest dog guide, Nestley, a Viszla, are quite a pair. Nestley is Lynn's fourth guide dog – all from Southeastern. When Southeastern says "lifetime commitment," they mean it, Lynn tells me.

Nestley shares Lynn and her home with husband Keith, also a guide dog user, and their four adopted children, ages 3 ½ to 16. Keith and Lynn are also finalizing the adoption of a fifth child. No shortness of love in this household!

Most recently Lynn has spent the past eight years as a Special Education teacher at the middle school level for the Columbus, Ohio school district. In fact, two of their children are special needs kids. She teaches in the inner city – the hard core schools. Many of her students are "gang kids." Lynn heard her calling early in life. When she was 5 years old she informed her father that one day she was going to be a teacher. She has never wavered from that goal despite 22 eye surgeries and resulting blindness from the complications of congenital cataracts, glaucoma and detached retinas. To hear Lynn talk, these were minor complications. She will finish her Master's

Lynn Lacey, continued on page 2

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is pleased to announce the placement of their 1,000th guide dog team on June twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred and ninety seven.

This accomplishment could not have been achieved without the hard work, encouragement and generosity of all our supporters.

We thank you for your continued support as we work to train one thousand more.

The proud staff and Board of Directors of Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

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Web Site: **http:/www.guidedogs.org**
E-mail: **segd@bhip.infi.net**

Lynn Lacey, continued from page 1

degree in Education Administration shortly and plans to continue on for her Doctorate.

"It's long term planning, " she explained. "When I finally get burned out with teaching I'll be prepared for Administration." I got burned out just listening to her accomplishments!

Her husband Keith is a computer programmer and works from the home. This means he handles much of the childcare duties until Lynn comes home and takes over. It's an arrangement that works well for them.

While attending the University of South Florida Lynn realized that she would need enhanced mobility if she wanted to teach. "I figured it would help me get a job much more quickly if I had a dog and could get around on my own independently." She interviewed five schools and selected Southeastern, then in its second year of operation.

"I can only imagine what Mike Sergeant must have thought when I arrived at the school on the back of a Harley-Davidson, flicked my cigarette and announced – I'm here for a dog." She got her dog, a Boxer, and was soon on her way to Columbus, Ohio where she still lives, having transferred to the education program at Ohio State University.

"I select my schools according to the type of education and training programs they offer," she said. "OSU was known for having a superior teacher education program. Southeastern impressed me with their dog-training methods. All positive reinforcement. As a Special Education teacher, this appealed to me."

Lynn has always been very impressed with the Trainer/Instructors; their care and concern with the students and intense dedication to their jobs. She also feels that the school is growing in a positive direction. "I remember when we would work downtown and had to bring coolers and lawn chairs. Now they've got a wonderful facility and we can stay in air-conditioned comfort while waiting to work the streets," she tells me, barely able to contain her laughter. "Southeastern has come a long way."

And so has Lynn. From the five-year-old wanting to be a teacher to a woman who is in full control of her life, having gained the necessary independence she needed in order to fulfill her dreams, Lynn Lacey typifies a successful guide dog user. She explains it to people this way: "Use of the cane involves a lot of collisions and uncertainty. You find yourself apologizing to trash cans and street signs. The first time I picked up a harness I was able to focus on the work. And as I found myself walking with my dog, weaving around the mall, never taking a misstep, it suddenly dawned on me – I'm normal! For the first time in my life I could walk through life like a sighted person." And that, in a nutshell, is the gift Southeastern provides.

Fifteen years and one-thousand guide dogs. Like Lynn Lacey and her guide dogs – there's just no stopping us.

Lynn Lacey and Nestley are joined by their sponsors, Bob and Nedra Joyce.

1997–98 CFC Campaign

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. wishes to thank in advance all those supporters who choose us for this year's annual workplace campaign. We would appreciate, also, if you would share your knowledge of our organization with friends, family and co-workers so those who have not yet made a decision will consider Southeastern for their campaign contributions.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.
Paws for Independence®

The Lions Den
Lions Governors Weekend Held at Southeastern

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. hosted Lions Governors, Vice Governors and Drive Directors from throughout the state of Florida and Alabama at their annual open house weekend August 8–9, 1997. Visiting dignitaries stayed at the Holiday Inn Riverfront where they enjoyed a delicious Hawaiian luau.

Saturday started early with a Continental breakfast at the hotel. The group was driven to Southeastern where they toured the campus, taken on blindfold walks and observed the Class in session working on Southeastern's newest addition, Freedom Walk.

Lunch was served in Southeastern's dining room where the Lions were able to meet and chat with the students. Southeastern's Executive Director, Lion Mike Sergeant, addressed the group during the lunch hour.

Right: Graduate/Lion Helen Arnold (center) and General enjoy the Freedom Walk gazebo with fellow Lions.

Alabama Lions Secretary Hatcher navigates the Freedom Walk under the watchful eye of Director of Training, Rick Holden.

Southeastern Guide Dogs Inc.®

11th Annual Barbeque & Open House

Come picnic with the puppies!

November 9th, 1997

Noon to 3:00 pm

Admission is FREE!
Donation for meal:
Adults: $8.00
Children under 12:.....$4.50
Children under 2:.....Free

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.
Paws for Independence®

BBQ held at: Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.
4210 77th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221
Ticket Information: (941) 729-5665

Sponsored by:
The Bradenton Lions Club

A Tribute To Rufus Mumford

Rufus Mumford will always be remembered at Southeastern for making a difference. He was a caring, compassionate person with a deep-seated love for people and animals. But it was his **opinions** that set him apart. His passionate opinions ran as deep as his love for the school. And it was his decided opinion that Southeastern was a truly worthy cause. That opinion made the difference to the survival of our school.

Rufus learned about Southeastern through Dr. Harris Silverman, President of the Board of Directors. He was invited to tour the facility during the spring of 1984 and later attended a barbecue that was held for the "important people" around town, hoping they might be interested in supporting our school. Not many people showed up, but Rufus did.

Obviously the seeds were already planted in Rufus' mind. Mike Sergeant, Executive Director, remembers seeing him standing there, arms crossed, looking somewhat intimidating. When Mike approached to greet him, Rufus' first comment was, "I want to help."

That Fall Rufus attended a meeting of the Board of Directors. It was a make it or break it meeting. The school was worse than broke. We were $86.00 in the hole. Rufus was nominated for a position on the Board and his first act was to put together a significant family contribution that pulled Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. out of that hole. In fact it was Rufus' contributions that built the original dorms.

His commitment to the school didn't stop with that first meeting. He remained on the Board until his untimely death, helping out in any way he could. During the early years he was always there to greet the students. It was his greatest joy to watch the students and dogs respond to one another. Rufus loved to observe the bonding process between student and dog and its ultimate conclusion: the Team. After finishing his work with the students, he would stop by the kennels to spend time with the dogs. He loved them as much as he loved people and enjoyed his time spent one-on-one with these wonderful animals.

Rufus had big dreams for Southeastern. He wouldn't be content until we became the number one guide dog school in the country. His untiring efforts towards this end saw Southeastern celebrate 15 years of service. He watched us train 1,000 guide dogs. It brought us closer to some of Rufus' dreams, goals and aspirations. We only wish we could have achieved this ultimate goal within his lifetime.

Rufus Mumford will not be forgotten by the staff, friends and supporters of Southeastern Guide Dogs. He will be memorialized on the Freedom Walk. His work will be carried out. We will continue to reach for his goal. And we will always remember him fondly.

His widow, Julie, contributed these words by Ralph Waldo Emerson. They couldn't describe Rufus better.

"To laugh often and much,
to win respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children;
to earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate beauty;
to find the best in others;
to leave the world a bit better
whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch, or a
redeemed social condition;
to know even one life
has breathed easier
because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.

Good-bye, dear friend.

People... In The News

As Southeastern continues to grow and expand we welcome new members to our team. Southeastern introduces the following people to the Training Department:

Terri Lynn Williams – Kennel Assistant

Becky Russo – Weekend Kennel Assistant

Debbie Weller – Weekend Kennel Assistant

The Administration Department is pleased to announce the addition of:

Kathryn Kunkel – Receptionist

Leisa Gibson – Administrative Assistant for Finance and Development

Also our apologies to Chuck Ray for the oversight in our previous issue. Chuck has been a puppy raiser for some years and recently joined our staff full time in the Administration Department as part of the Development team and Events Coordinator.

The Outreach Division announces the addition of former employee Shiela Sparks as Outreach Manager in Charlotte, North Carolina. Shiela will be working with Sue Abramovich, Outreach Instructor.Our long-time supporters will remember Shiela, who formerly was our office manager. We are pleased that she is able to re-join our organization.

Deferred Gift Annuity

By Stuart Grout

beginning at age 65 for the remainder

please complete and mail us the coupon that appears below. If you prefer you may provide the information we require by phone. Contact Kim Brown at 941/729-5665 or Fax to Kim's attention at 941/729-6646.

like a confidential,
uote on how you can benefit
ern's Charitable Gift Annuity,

_____

_____

_____ State: ____ Zip: _____

ne:_____ Evening Phone: _____

: ____/____/____ Date payments should begin: ____/____/____
month day year *month day year*

ayments to continue for a second life such as a spouse, please provide that
ı date: ____/____/____
month day year

REQUIRED DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Florida Statutes Chapter 496, cited as the Solicitation of Contributions Act, was enacted by the 1991 Florida Legislature with an effective date of January 1, 1992. This law requires that organizations like the Southeastern Guide DOgs, Inc., furnish the following information with each fund solicitation and receipt for contributions. "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE." TOLL FREE WITHIN FLORIDA: 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION NUMBER: SC-04075

A beautiful assortment of FOUR new holiday cards!

Inside inscription reads:

May the joy of this holiday season be yours. Happy Holidays.

Cards this adorable won't last long! Order yours today!

Only
$7.50
per dozen plus postage

All proceeds benefit
Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®

_____

_____

_____ State: _____ Zip: _____

d me _____ dozen holiday cards!

al check or money order of $ _____ is enclosed.

le the appropriate amounts:

1 dozen: **$10.00** (postage included) | 2 dozen: **$18.00** (postage included) | 3–6 dozen: **Call** (postage included)

4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221
Larger orders: (941) 729-5665

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His widow, Julie, contribute
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3NL97

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®
4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221

THANK YOU FOR ADDING A STAMP

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Deferred Gift Annuity

By: Stuart Grout

Southeastern's Gift Annuity isn't only for retirees. If you like the idea of making a generous gift to our school, but need to save for retirement years, the Deferred Gift Annuity may be the ideal way to achieve both objectives.

Take the case of David S., age 50, a successful businessman who would like to support Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. in a significant way. Since he is in his peak earning years, he neither wants nor needs added income now, but would like to add to his retirement security.

David decides to contribute $50,000. for a deferred gift annuity that will begin paying him when he is 65. His gift generates an immediate income-tax charitable deduction of $31,330. and he will receive $8,150. each year beginning at age 65 for the remainder of his life.

If you would like a confidential, personalized quote on how you can benefit from Southeastern's Charitable Gift Annuity, please complete and mail us the coupon that appears below. If you prefer you may provide the information we require by phone. Contact Kim Brown at 941/729-5665 or Fax to Kim's attention at 941/729-6646.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Date of birth: ____/____/____ (month day year) Date payments should begin: ____/____/____ (month day year)

If you wish payments to continue for a second life such as a spouse, please provide that person's birth date: ____/____/____ (month day year)

1997 Holiday Cards

A beautiful assortment of FOUR new holiday cards!

Inside inscription reads:

May the joy of this holiday season be yours. Happy Holidays.

Cards this adorable won't last long! Order yours today!

Only **$7.50** per dozen plus postage

All proceeds benefit Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Please send me _____ dozen holiday cards!

My personal check or money order of $ _____ is enclosed.

Please circle the appropriate amounts:

1 dozen: **$10.00** (postage included) 2 dozen: **$18.00** (postage included) 3–6 dozen: **Call** (postage included)

Clip & mail to:
Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®
4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221
Larger orders: (941) 729-5665

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 8/11/97

Life Membership/Freedom Walk

(Any gift of $100 or greater to our endowment trust qualifies both for life membership and a brick on Freedom Walk)

Marie Aguire
Al. Xi Phi-Montgomery
W. Ken & Barbara J. Andersen
Iris Elizabeth Arnold
Lloyd J. Beets
Donna Bienkowski
Blue Chip Enterprises, Inc.
Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle
David M. & Barbara Bray
Charles L. Czermak, Jr.
Jeanne C. Dwan
Carol Errickson
Ila H. Evans
Mrs. Richard W. Fox
William C. & Paulette Gaar
Frank X. Gallagher
Tim Gleason
Karen L. Groth
John P. & Margaret C. Hannigan
Dinah S. Hanvey
Patricia H. Heffernan
Leonard J. & Joan A. Heinle
John R. & Leonora C. Hoban
Jacqueline Howard
Emily Irey
Col. Ruth M. Isham, USA Ret.
Robert M. & Nedra E. Joyce
Josephine A. Lane
Mary Ellen Lawler
H. Duke Leitzes
Floyd E. Lippert
John A. & Kris London
Mail Boxes Etc.
Lois Q. Malecky
Robert & Jocelyn N. Mather
Leo & Virginia L. McGachey
John G. & Mary N. McKeon & Family
Ms. Melrose McMichael
Mike Carter Construction, Inc.
Brian J. & Jackie Miller
Julie Mumford
Sonja Louise & Phillip Nastyn
Navy Wives Club of America #201
Navy Wives Clubs of America #240
Clem M. Oeth
James H. Pellicone
Joy A. Petersen
Patricia A. Petruff
Carol B. & Charles E. Pickup
Yvonne R. Ponsor
Anna M. Quagliaroli
Bernice C. & Albert E Rollins
Safe-T-Pet
Irene V. Samen
Shadowbrook Community Club
Robert R. Sherman
Edna R. Shumate & Family
Harold & Lynne G. Sklover
Jan & Gene Smith
John J. & Eleanor H. Smith
June S. Stewart
Edward A. Tanguay
Phil & Susan Tyson
George & Phyllis Ulrich
L.E. White, Jr.
Sylvia M. Williams
Women's Friendship Club of Englewood
Fred & Jackie Wurzbacher
Richard L. & Mary Lou Wutzler
Mary Lou Yates

**A special tribute will be placed on Freedom Walk in the memory of Rufus Mumford by his friends and family.*

Park Bench Sponsors

($1,200 donation to Freedom Walk)

Ida T. Alkire – puppy sponsor of "Frosty"
J.T. Griffin – puppy sponsor of "Lizzie" or "Boy"
Robert M. & Nedra E. Joyce – to be announced
Alfred E. Junod – puppy sponsorship of "Bonnie"
Dorothy Hornack, PDG 35-O 96/97 – to be announced
In memory of Joanne O'Meara – puppy sponsorship of "Jonie"
Michael G. & Sherrye H. Witter – puppy sponsorship of "Ruby" or "Rufus"

Street Light Sponsors

($3,000 donation to Freedom Walk)

Ruth E. Bechtel
Bernice C. & Albert E. Rollins

Brick Crosswalk Sponsors

($9,000 donation to Freedom Walk)

Mike Carter Construction, Inc.

Freedom Walk–Lions

($100 or greater donation to Freedom Walk)

Bradenton Lions Club
Pat Troup, PDG 96/97
John Dubois

Cypress Gardens Lions Club
A. MacGlashing
Alice Burger
Deep Creek Lions Club
William Bower

Half Moon Lioness Club
S. McDonald

Headland Lions Club
Name Pending

Hudson/Bayonet Point Lions Club
Jackie Cameron, VDG 97/98

Lakeland North Lions Club
Harry Porter
Larry Mackey, PDG

Orange City Lions Club
All 30 members included

Sebring Lions Club
Floyd Blake
Mary Cobb
Paul Holbert
Richard "Mac" McClain
Carlos Morales
Ed Murray, PDG
James Roling
Al Scarpati
Howard Schroeder
Beth Ann Whitaker
Jamie Whitaker

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Continued from page 8

Full Sponsorships

($9,000 or greater)

Bell Family Foundation for Hope – full sponsorship of "Bailey"

Estate of Shirley D. Gillespie Trust – sponsorship of Jim Burns & "Sammi" & Billy Mack & "Jill"

Adeline G. Hatzl – sponsorship of David Bigony & "Wizard"

Bob & Nedra Joyce – sponsorship of Lynn Lacey & "Nestley"

Estate of Mary K. Moyer Trust – sponsorship of Janet Renzulli & "Waldo"

Veterinary Medical Clinic – full sponsorship of "Kate"

Puppy Sponsorships

($1,200 or greater)

Bearcat Financial Services Inc – "Marcella" & "Jake"

Harold C. Bladel – "Lance"

Donald & Reva Brandt – "Millie"

William & Carlene R. Byard – "Pilot"

Jill H. Carr – "Archie"

The Stephen D. Feldman Trust Visual Aid Volunteers – "King"

Elise L. Finley – "Panache"

Ethel Fuller – "Boots"

Patricia Gorman – "Noche"

Dan & Helen Harrison – "Enterprise"

Largo Elks No. 2159 – "Neuoma"

J.G. & Debra McMakin – "Jessica"

Angelica G. & Burl Muns – "Amber", "Angel", "Burl", "Nemo"

Palmetto Yacht Club – to be announced

Stan & Betty Preston – "Gidget"

St. Peter's Episcopal Church – "Joy"

Serteen Club of King Middle School – to be announced

Karen Sherman – "Captain Ron"

Don & Connie Smith – "Emily" & "Nina"

Student Council of Mintz Elementary School – to be announced

Suncoast Tape Library for the Blind, Inc. – "Jill" & "Meg"

Russell G. & Dolores M. Vinson –"Maggie"

Co–Sponsorships

($500 or greater)

Bates Foundation – room & board for five graduates

Hans & Cay Jacobsen Foundation – co–sponsorship for one graduate

Jacqueline Parish – room & board for one graduate

Cora Mae Stone – room & board for one graduate

Memorials

($100 donation in memory of those who have passed away)

John M. (Jack) Alexander

Nico Brinkers

James O'Dell Burns

Brud Chilson

Terry Czerniewicz

Kurt K. Doudna

Sprague J. Fuller

Richard C. Johnson

Rosalind "Posie"Lansdowne

Michele Manley

Richard (Dick) Mau, Sr.

Scott McGachey

James T. McGowan

Dorothy Moery

Anna H. Morris

Rufus W. Mumford, Jr.

Joanna L. Chie O'Meara

Irene Partyka

Kate Annie Randall

Frank Rogers

David Rubin

Constance C. Steinmetz

Vivian Vaughan

Keturah (Kit) Ann Weinland

Dale Woods

Pet Memorials

($50 donation)

"Angel" Best Friend of Pat Hoffman

"Beau" Beloved Friend of Gail & Harry Grand

"Maggie" Faithful Companion & Loving Friend of The Keweshans

"Poochy" Beloved Friend of Dinah S. Hanvey

"Ranger" Beloved Friend of Archie & Lee Griffin

"Ruffles" Beloved Friend of Joy, Steve, & Ryan Goldberg

"Taylor" Beloved Friend of Kevin & Kimberly McKinney

"Tina" Beloved Friend of Duke Leitzes

Raffle Tickets Now On Sale

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is, once again, offering its annual raffle in conjunction with the Walkathon. The drawing will be held on March 7, 1997 and you need not be present to win. Prizes include:

1st Prize: 7 day Holland America cruise for two ($1.200 value).

2nd Prize: 4 day Carnival cruise for two ($600 value).

3rd Prize: and various other prizes to be announced.

Donation is $1.00 per ticket or $5.00 for six tickets. Please contact the School if you are interested in purchasing tickets. Many thanks to graduate Ed Eyre, the owner of Sea Ventures Travel, for donating the cruises.

Your Legacy

Your support and belief in "The Gift of Mobility" can be expressed in a legacy left for those who follow. Please contact Southeastern Guide Dogs for information on how you can provide

A Promise for Tomorrow

Consult your attorney and be sure to use our full name and address when you

Remember Southeastern in your will.

A GIFT OF LOVE

DON'T FORGET...

Calendar of Events

1st Annual SEGD Golf Tournament 9/27

Class VI ..... 10/6 – 10/31

Puppy Raiser Day 10/18

Texas Puppy Raisers Golf Tournament 10/6

11th Annual SEGD Barbecue ... 11/9

Mobile Home Park Walkathon Kickoff 12/17

"Paws For Independence" Newsletter

is published quarterly for supporters of Southeastern Guide Dog School.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit corporation devoted solely to the task of helping blind men and women find the travel independence that only a Southeastern bred and trained guide dog can give.

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4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-729-5665
941-729-6646 – Fax

Managing Editor: Cathie Newitt
Development Director: Kim Brown

Every reference to Southeastern, SEGD or Southeastern Guide Dogs is a direct reference to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF ANIMAL FUNDS OF AMERICA

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

ICA Independent Charities of America

Share The American Way

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4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221

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SOUTHEASTERN
GUIDE DOGS, INC.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

"Paws For Independence" NEWSLETTER

Winter, 1998

OUTREACH

In order to address the increasing demands for our quality services, Southeastern established a satellite Outreach office in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1997. Charlotte was selected because of the growing population of the Carolinas and the large number of applications we receive from the region.

Outreach is managed by Sheila Sparks who was formerly Office Manager for six years at the main campus. Sue Abramovich, an experienced guide dog trainer with 14 years seniority, manages the Outreach training program. Sue formerly worked at the main campus and has already placed guide dogs with students from Charlotte to Wilkesboro and as far south as Columbia, South Carolina since starting at Outreach.

The goal of Outreach is to better and more efficiently service the needs of the blind community in North and South Carolina. Southeastern provides guide dogs and home service to blind individuals within a two hour radius of Charlotte. Outreach services those individuals who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to participate in the 26 day on-campus program. This includes students with special health concerns who must remain near their local health care provider, senior citizens who would find the campus program too strenuous, career professionals who cannot take a leave of absence for 26 days or parents with children who cannot be left for such a long period of time. Outreach is practical, cost effective

Outreach, continued on page 2

Jennifer Foley and Betsy

Jennifer Foley

She will graduate in August, 1998, with a degree in social work from Auburn University. She is doing an internship at the Child Protection Service of Nashville, Tennessee, upon graduation. And she has a guide dog named Betsy – courtesy of Southeastern Guide Dogs and their home placement program.

Jennifer Foley is another example of the perfect candidate for Outreach.When Jennifer's previous guide dog, Tito, was diagnosed with serious health problems and

Jennifer Foley, continued on page 2

Steve Obremski

Steve Obremski is a busy professional. He's president of the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Portland, Maine. As such he's responsible for the overall function of this agency which services clients throughout the state of Maine. He travels frequently. And he is blind.

Steve lost his sight gradually. He had "mobility vision" for many years but in 1975 he elected to get his first guide dog primarily because he hated using a cane. He has found that a guide dog allows him to function more

Steve Obremski, continued on page 2

Steve Obremski and Buster

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Donors & Sponsors ..... pages 6–7

Web Site: **http:/www.guidedogs.org**
E-mail: **segd@bhip.infi.net**

Outreach, continued from page 1

and often better meets the needs of both the individual and the guide dog.

Since establishing Outreach last year, office manager Sheila Sparks has been busy. "Outreach serves several purposes," remarked Sheila in a phone interview. "We are attempting to create community awareness of our existence as well as recruit new puppy raisers. We have found a high level of interest in the blind community, now that they are learning we are here. Also, Sue has been very busy offering follow-up services to our graduates in the area."

Trainer Sue Abramovich plans on two placements during the first quarter of 1998 as well as offering continued follow-up services to local graduates. Sheila will be working hard to "spread the word" about Outreach through newspaper and television coverage. "We want everyone to see how adaptable Southeastern's programs are – by bringing them right to the students, in their home environment," adds Sheila. Outreach is developing interest with support groups, particularly 4-H and their extension program.

In cooperation with Outreach, home trainings are also provided by the main campus. Candidates in cities not serviced by Charlotte are still eligible for home placement utilizing dogs and the training staff in Palmetto. The program in Charlotte is just the first of what Southeastern hopes to be an ongoing program – Outreach centers strategically placed in key southern cities providing our unique services to those who need them.

Jennifer Foley, continued from page 1

had to be retired unexpectedly, Jennifer realized that it would be extremely difficult to put her college program on hold while she attended class at Southeastern with her new dog. She originally decided to apply for a guide dog in order to make her college career possible. Jennifer knew she required the ability to move around campus more independently if she was ever to get the degree she wanted. Frankly, she didn't trust the cane. She received Tito in October of 1993 and began her college career the following January. She and Tito intended to graduate together!

Southeastern recognized Jennifer's unique situation and, as soon as possible, sent trainer Don Muisener to Alabama with Jennifer's new guide dog – Betsy. Auburn and Jennifer's professors were more than cooperative with the "on the job" training provided by Don. And Betsy picked up her responsibilities very quickly. "The transition was swift," noted Jennifer. "Betsy knew immediately this was her new job. We didn't have additional transition time from Southeastern to home, home to University."

Within 2 weeks Don's job was done and Betsy was doing hers. Jennifer appreciates Betsy's energy level and love of people. She's also impressed with Betsy's ability to recall previous places. "She seems to remember things she hasn't even been taught to remember," remarks Jennifer, clearly impressed. "Home placement was the best choice for my situation. I'll be able to graduate on time – with my guide dog."

Steve Obremski, continued from page 1

independently. Physically, being a tall man with a long stride, a guide dog permits him to move at his own pace.

Steve's situation is typical of the type of student requiring Outreach. He needed another guide dog, his fourth, as it was time to retire Promise, his Southeastern Lab. But because of his position as President of the agency, he absolutely could not take three weeks out of his busy schedule to attend class in Palmetto. So Trainer Katherine Ulrich and guide dog Buster flew to Maine instead.

Steve was able to continue his work with the agency in the mornings and work with Katherine and Buster in the afternoons. Home placement of this nature, according to Steve, "customizes" the training for the student. It also permits the trainer to address training concerns on the spot, as they happen, in the home environment. Buster, trained in Florida, learned the new terrain – including snow (not found often in Florida!) – as he learned to work with his new partner. And Katherine was there to help Buster make the transition to his new home, including two pet dogs, smoothly.

Steve does not recommend home placement for the first time guide dog user. Learning to use a guide dog for the first time requires a great deal of training and regimentation, available only at the school through their Class program. But for a busy executive like Steve, receiving his fourth guide dog via Outreach was absolutely the best method of placement available to him.

The Lions Den

Southeastern would like to recognize the efforts of the Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club of Lady Lake, Florida for their generous fund-raising efforts in 1997. The club managed to raise $9,000 for a full sponsorship of the yellow male Labrador Retriever "See-mor." The club is already working on their next full sponsorship of "Angel," a goldador.

Southeastern is also grateful to the Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind. The foundation donated $18,500 in 1997. These funds were used towards the purchase of a second special van to be used for Class. Southeastern is now able to transport the students and their dogs in a vehicle that is both safe and comfortable.

WORKING PARTNERSHIP
LIONS INTERNATIONAL
Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

Golfers Go 'Fore' It

The first annual SEGD golf tournament is now history – but it also made some. Despite a small setback of torrential rains the day of the tourney, nearly all golfers were able to make the rain date – and raise approximately $10,000 for the School. Those "in the know" admit that the tournament was amazingly successful for the first year.

Many thanks to tournament organizers Cliff and Pat Cowan. Pat is a graduate and also on SEGD's Board of Directors. The Cowan's were capably assisted by a strong volunteer force and several Southeastern employees. We are also grateful to our sponsors which included:

Platinum Sponsors ($1,200):
Blake Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary
The Eye Associates

Silver Sponsors ($500):
Peninsula Asset Management

Bronze Sponsors ($300):
Manatee Eye Clinic & Laser Center
Manatee Memorial Hospital
West Coast Title and Abstract Company

Crystal Sponsors ($100):
Beall's Department Stores
Coldwell-Banker Realty - Lockwood Ridge Office
Plantation Printers
Johnson Printing
Target Stores of Bradenton
Mike Carter Construction
Manatee Veterinary Clinic
Bob Boast Dodge
Bill Graham Ford
Service Travel
Florida Auto & Truck Exchange
Varnadore, Tyler, Hoffner, King, Hawthorne, Hammer & Stathis, P.A.
Celebrations by Mara Routh

General Supporters (various donations) :
Ship "n" Shore Cruises & Tours
Dr. Donn & Mrs. Marilyn Keels
M & M Wallpaper
Franklin Lighting
Entertainment Golf, Inc.
Tropical Cadillac, Inc.

Above:
This team from Florida Design Communities enjoyed a great day of golf.

Firkins Chrysler/Plymouth/Jeep-Eagle
NationsBank/Tara
University Park Golf & Country Club
Mr. Lee Trevino
Players World of Golf
Peridia Golf & Country Club
The Meadows Golf & Country Club
River Wilderness Golf & Country Club
Watson Publications, Inc.
Shirley Petrie
Golf Experience
Outback Steakhouse/Sarasota
Barnett Bank
Edward Jones Investments
Econo Lodge
Tropical Interiors Florist
A-Bokay by Sharon
Hop's Bar & Grill, Bradenton
Miller's Dutch Kitchen
Animal Crackers
Party City of Bradenton
Circuit City, Bradenton
Petsmart, Bradenton
Tropicana
Up the Wall
Linda Dragg

The date of the 1998 tournament has been set as September 19. We encourage all interested golfers to sign up early as we reached capacity – 144 golfers – last year and know we will do the same this year. The tournament will once again be held at Tara Golf and Country Club in Bradenton. Call the school for details.

Employee News Notes

Southeastern welcomes Larisa Scharikin to the Training Department. Larisa left a position as a Corporate Accounting Manager after eleven years to pursue a career that would allow her to work toward the well-being of mankind. She joined The Seeing Eye in 1989 as an apprentice trainer and was, most recently, a Senior Instructor. Larisa officially joined the staff as a Qualified Trainer/ Instructor on November 11.

Welcome back to Michelle Huseby. Michelle has been a puppy raiser and has worked in the Puppy Department before going on "sabbatical" to California. Upon her return she joined the Development Department on a part-time basis to assist with the media. She will also be performing miscellaneous administrative tasks for the department. We're glad to have her back!

Marc Izzo is also making a return appearance at Southeastern. He's resuming his former responsibilities as Groundskeeper.

The Puppy Department added to their staff recently. Welcome to Cindi Crawford. She is the new Administrative Assistant for the Puppy Program.

Southeastern wishes to recognize the new additions to our weekend crew: Lesley Thompson, Autumn Sauve, Abigail Roberts and Laura Jefferies will be providing those necessary services on the weekends.

And there are promotions to announce. Congratulations to apprentice Lisa Harvey. Lisa became a qualified Trainer/Instructor on January 1. Hard work has paid off! Additional congratulations are extended to Trainer/ Instructor Lynn Benus. Lynn now becomes a Class Supervisor. Diana Herold now assumes the role of Puppy Kennel Manager.

Top Dog Talks...

"One must be poor to know the luxury of giving."
George Elliott

I read this recently and was moved. I hadn't really thought of "giving" as being a luxury, but for many of Southeastern's supporters, it is. It it never fails to humble me each time a donation is received by the school. So many of us, myself included, remember only too well the leaner times. And you probably made a promise to yourself, as I did, that when things got better you would never forget the fact that somewhere, along the way, somebody lent a helping hand.

Southeastern has always been proud of the fact that it accepts no financial support from state or federal agencies. This was a school built on the support of like-minded people. People who never forgot someone who had helped them. People who care about others. People who love animals.

We are beginning a new year at Southeastern. Another "giving" year. We will be "giving" more guide dogs to students who desperately need them. Puppy raisers are "giving" of their time to raise these wonderful dogs to become guide dogs. Service groups and supporters are "giving" Southeastern hard-earned donations to pay for the services we provide. Our staff is "giving" of their time and talents to make Southeastern a top-notch school. Foundations review our needs and generously "give" us much-needed funds for equipment and programs.

1997 was a very good year for many of our supporters – they proved it with their generous year-end donations.
The Gift of Mobility will be enjoyed by many new students during 1998. All because certain people wanted to make a significant difference in someone's life.
They provided a blind person with the opportunity to become independent and live life more normally.

What could be more luxurious?

R. Michael Sergeant
Executive Director, C.O.O.

Above:
The SEGD team looking forward to a successful 1998.

COUNT ME IN...®

income from your "social capital" throughout your life as well as the life of a surviving spouse by establishing a life income trust or gift annuity.

REQUIRED DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Florida Statutes Chapter 496, cited as the Solicitation of Contributions Act, was enacted by the 1991 Florida Legislature with an effective date of January 1, 1992. This law requires that organizations like the Southeastern Guide DOgs, Inc., furnish the following information with each fund solicitation and receipt for contributions. "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE." TOLL FREE WITHIN FLORIDA: 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION NUMBER: SC-04075

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ınd Tampa offices. It was ing who recommended : the grant. A presentation ecember 10, 1997 during school.

ıck Leasing enjoyed their day at

Freedom Walk

Dedicated to the Future Students of Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

1998 kicks off both a new year and two new phases of Freedom Walk. With the completion of Phase I of Freedom Walk, Phases II ("Pathway to Mobility") and III ("On the Nature Trail") are now under way. Many new giving options are available; contact the Development Department for details.

Freedom Walk has been a great asset to the campus, and both students and supporters alike have enjoyed this enhancement to the school It has also been one of the most successful fund-raising programs Southeastern has sponsored. We encourage individuals and groups alike to consider a permanent contribution to Southeastern in the form of a brick, a bench, or any one of the other opportunities still available.

Freedom Walk continued on page 8

ɔice Is Yours

apital gains taxes in 1997? · minimize capital gains taxes Iere's how Let's assume you on stock which cost you ago, but now is worth $10,000 u a three percent dividend or u were to transfer the stock ; gift annuity, you can receive year, part of which is tax free nore, you have avoided you would have owed on re to sell the stock outright, ble are eligible for a tx 8 as part of the $10,000 you transferred to the gift annuity.

Yes, the choice is yours. Did you let Uncle Sam decide how your "social capital" was distributed in 1997? Do you want that to happen in 1998? If your answer is "no," please let us show you how you can take charge. Please contact us by mail, phone, fax or e-mail providing the information requested in the coupon which appears below.

We also recommend you confer with your financial advisor on what options are best suited to your individual situation. Of course, we will treat the information you provide as strictly confidential.

_____

_____

_____ State: ____ Zip: _____

____/____/_____ Spouse's Date of Birth: ____/____/____
month day year *month day year*

(Indicte spouse's date of birth only if you desire income for both)

If you want information on our gift annuity, please indicate the amount you are considering: _____

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Above:
The SEGD team looking forward to a successful 1998.

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We are beginning a new ye
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INL98

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®
4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221

THANK YOU FOR ADDING A STAMP

Southeastern Receives $10,000 Grant from UPS Foundation

Southeastern recently received a $10,000 Region/District Grant from the UPS Foundation, the charitable arm of United Parcel Service. The grant was used to purchase a Ford Windstar mini-van to be used for home placements of guide dogs and in-home visits with graduates and applicants. It is the first time a grant of this nature has been awarded in Florida.

The UPS Grant Program was established in 1983 by the UPS Foundation. Its committees identify and provide local organizations with financial support that will impact their ability to serve those with urgent needs. The UPS Foundation distributed approximately $17.5 million in 1996 throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Southeastern was visited by members of the corporate offices of UPS Truck Leasing in Atlanta, Georgia as well as representatives of the Orlando and Tampa offices. It was UPS Truck Leasing who recommended Southeastern for the grant. A presentation was made on December 10, 1997 during their visit to the school.

Reps from UPS Truck Leasing enjoyed their day at Southeastern

Freedom Walk

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Freedom Walk has been a great asset to the campus, and both students and supporters alike have enjoyed this enhancement to the school It has also been one of the most successful fund-raising programs Southeastern has sponsored. We encourage individuals and groups alike to consider a permanent contribution to Southeastern in the form of a brick, a bench, or any one of the other opportunities still available.

Freedom Walk continued on page 8

The Choice Is Yours

By: Stuart Grout

Much has been written recently about the concept of "social capital." The definition of social capital is that part of your income that you will pay either in taxes or distribute as a charitable gift. While you can never completely avoid the payment of taxes, you can lower the amount of taxes you pay by making a tax deductible gift to charity. By making such a gift, you are exercising your right to choose whether you distribute your social capital as taxes or a gift.

As the April 15th deadline for filing your Federal income tax form nears, take a moment to reflect on how much of your 1997 "social capital" was paid as taxes as opposed to a gift to your favorite charity. It's too late to change your 1997 allocation of social capital, but you do have an opportunity to make some changes for 1998. Up to certain maximum limits, every dollar you give to charity can mean a dollar less going to Uncle Sam. Furthermore, there are ways you can receive income from your "social capital" throughout your life as well as the life of a surviving spouse by establishing a life income trust or gift annuity.

Did you owe capital gains taxes in 1997? You can avoid or minimize capital gains taxes in future years. Here's how Let's assume you are age 70 and won stock which cost you $5,000 ten years ago, but now is worth $10,000 and is paying you a three percent dividend or $300 a year. If you were to transfer the stock to Southeastern's gift annuity, you can receive 7.7% or $770 per year, part of which is tax free income. Furthermore, you have avoided capital gains tax you would have owed on $5,000. If you were to sell the stock outright, and you are eligible are eligible for a tx deduction in 1998 as part of the $10,000 you transferred to the gift annuity.

Yes, the choice is yours. Did you let Uncle Sam decide how your "social capital" was distributed in 1997? Do you want that to happen in 1998? If your answer is "no," please let us show you how you can take charge. Please contact us by mail, phone, fax or e-mail providing the information requested in the coupon which appears below.

We also recommend you confer with your financial advisor on what options are best suited to your individual situation. Of course, we will treat the information you provide as strictly confidential.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Date of birth: ____ / ____ / _____ Spouse's Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
month day year *month day year*

(Indicte spouse's date of birth only if you desire income for both)

If you want information on our gift annuity, please indicate the amount you are considering: _____

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 1/16/98

Life Membership/Freedom Walk

(Any gift of $100 or greater to our endowment trust qualifies both for life membership and a brick on Freedom Walk)

Altrusa International of Sarasota, Wyllis L. Andrew, Nancy Rogers Atkins, Peter (Tonny) Baas, Helen S. & Robert J. Bacon, Jr., Roberta L. Barton, Martin J. & Yvette Berrigan, Mark A. Blitch, Bill & Win Blitch, Dorothy E. Blum, Doris F. Brown, M. Marie Burg, Doris S. & John T. Coates, Tessie Cox, J.R. & Betty Jane Crews, Dog Obedience Club of Lee County, Paula Doublin, Thor & Lorraine Erickson, John & Alice Farber, Myra & Jimmy Farrell, Sylvia J. Fertsch, Dwane & Violet L. Folsom, Leon Ford, PDG, Nancy J. French, Lois M. Gallant, John & Norma Gannon, Walter L. Gilfedder, Jr., Janis K. & James M. Gilkison, DVM, Mel & Daisy Greenwood, William J. & Nanette Grist & Family, Mary N. & Lester M. Hall, Bruce Hanson, Richard O. Hanson, Robert J. Hanson, Mike & Judy Harrison, John C. Hardwood, A. Lewis Herzberg, B. John R. & Leonora C. Hoban, Mada Huddleston, Humanitarians of Florida, Jerome L. & Margaret M. Jeske, Johnson Printing, James E. Kennady, Dorothy R. Klick, D.C. & Jean M. Krautter, Alice Kulick, Clarence H. Kurth, Lake Seminole Square Management, Fred & Janice Laux, Mary Ellen Lawler, Francis M. & Katharine J. Lumley, Judge W. Marion, Patti Menser, Jack E. & Lillian R. Murray, Nam-Knights of America, MC; Alyce Nash, Franklin M. & Elaine C. Nettles, Arthur R. Nolden, Tom & Renatta O'Meara, Sr., Robert B. Ogg, Jacqueline S. Parish, Lewis Patton, Stanley & Betty Preston, C. Leighton & Karen Quinn, Helen Rake, Harvey & Sara Randall, John M. Reid, James Riley, Mildred D. Rogers, Edward Rosenkrantz, Joseph & Diane Roux, SBC Center for Learning, Mrs. Alfred Schick, Norman & Elaine Schlessberg, Charles A. Schoen, Robert R. Sherman, Sam & Leona Sherman, Ellen J. Sinclair, St. Catherines Woman's Club, Richard Staude, Kirby Sullivan, Sun Coast Water, Gertrude E. Taylor, William H. Thornton, John H. Thornton, Sr., Katherine Ulrich, Jean Van Orden, Veterinary Medical Clinic, Inc., Sam Wapnowitz, Henry B. Welter, Gordon (Joe) Woolner, Lois Marie Wygonik

Freedom Walk – Memorials

($100 donation for a memorial brick on Freedom Walk)

Connie & Den Bassett – In memory of Patrick Winser, Glory Brown & Jimmy and Myra Farrell – In memory of Pat Cranshaw, Clearwater Lions Club – In memory of Lion Glen W. Beneke, Clearwater Lions Club – In memory of Lolita Golden, Bill Dalton – In memory of Jessie Dalton, Jim DeBruhl – In memory of Joe & Mary DeBruhl, Myra & Jimmy Farrell – In memory of Walter & Velma Pingley, James Fisher – In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Earl Fisher, Ralph & Ruth Getchell – In memory of Robert Riley, Mary E. Hay – In memory of Sydney C. Hay, Jr., Harry Heckman – In memory of Harry Heckman, Sr., Patricia H. Heffernan – In memory of Lion James T. Heffernan, Jacky's Factory Outlet – In memory of Joseph (Potsy) Miller, Alice Kulick – In memory of Edwin Kulick, June Maher – In memory of K. Knickerbocker, Mary E. North – In memory of John R. Murphy, Palm Harbor II Lions Club – In memory of Lion Renee Sass, Helen Rake – In memory of Bert A. Tavary, Harvey & Sara Randall – In memory of Scott Wilson, Harvey & Sara Randall – In memory of Joseph Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Salvino – In memory of Potsy Miller, Richard & Hedy Seuffert – In memory of Tim Hill, Doris Stelzer – In memory of George Stelzer, Andrian Thompson – In memory of Gene Thompson, Ruth Wagley – In memory of Lion Lester English, Donna & David Wright – In memory of Jerry Wayne Rogers, Donna & David Wright – In memory of James Odell Burns

Freedom Walk – Diamond Sponsors

($1,200 donation to Freedom Walk)

Dave H. & Lee Gracey, D. R. Long Foundation, Inc., Robert M. & Nedra E. Joyce, Palm Harbor II Lions Club, John & Evelyn Peek, The Polk Foundation – 4 diamonds, Phyllis White, ***Texas Diamond sponsored by:*** *Central Texas College Retirees Association, AFSCME Local Union 3920, Noon Exchange Club of Copperas Cove, Copperas Cove High School, Copperas Cove High School Student Council, The Shermans Texas Puppy Raisers*

Park, Gazebo & Picnic Bench Sponsors

($1,200 or greater donation to Freedom Walk)

Dorothy Alexander – puppy sponsorship of "Alex", Connie & Den Bassett – puppy sponsor of "Noche", Celia B. Giesenschlag Trust – puppy sponsorship of "Celia", Heathrow Women's Club, Inc. – puppy sponsorship fo "Heathrow", May K. Houck Foundation – to be announced, The Laymon Family – in honor of William & Jo Anne Laymon, Panama City Lions Club – sponsors of Gazebo Bench, John & Evelyn Peek – to be announced, St. Petersburg Lions Foundation, Inc. – sponsor of a Picnic Table, The Schoenbaum Family Foundation – sponsor of 4 benches, Sunshine H.O.G. Chapter – to be announced, Veterinary Medical Clinic, Inc. – puppy sponsorship of "Sayler"

Freedom Walk – Crosswalk Sponsors

($9,000 or greater donation to Freedom Walk)

Robert & Nedra Joyce – sponsor of Freedom Walk's Crosswalk at Bus Stop, William M. & Nina B. Hollis Foundation – sponsor of Main Entrance

Freedom Walk – Lions

($100 or greater donation given by Lion members to Freedom Walk)

Fred F. Bartlett, VDG; Jacqueline Cameron, DG & Lion Bill Cameron; Leon P. Ford, PDG; Kirk Hiner, Drive Director & Lion Margaret T. Hiner; Dorothy (Dotti) Hornak, PDG; Lions C. R. & Donna Jacobson; Donald E. Maule, Drive Director & Lion Tara Maule; Lion Jack Stuart, International Director; Lion Juanita Woods

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 1/16/98

Freedom Walk – Lions Clubs

($100 or greater donation given by Lion Clubs in honor of members)

***Bonita Springs Lions Club**: Lion Don Keller, **Bradenton Lions Foundation, Inc.**: The Wegners', **Brookridge Lions Club**: Tom Chadwick, Floyd Darby, Roy Cagle, Joe Mooty, Bob Day, Marlene Milz, Don Milz, Jack Bell, **Clearwater Lions Club**: Glen W. Beneke, In Memory of Lolita Golden, **Enterprise AL Lions Club**: Dan Harrison, **Lakeland North Lions Club**: 2 names to be announced, **North Miami Marion Lions Club, Inc.**: Sandra Slemp, VDG, **Okeechobee Lions Club**: Lavon Bass, Stephen E. Burk, Wayne Clark, Mark A. Grindstaff, Paul J. Hiott, Harry Horrick, Mike Joles, Johnnie M. Kinsaul, James P. Lipscomb, Gary Miles, Arnold Monroe, Ian Nairnsey, Aaron Parriot, John Pfenning, Donnie Robertson, Julian Stinnett, Elder Summer, Lewis Thomas, Charles Thompson, Randy Whipple, John Wilson, **Orange Blossom Gardens Lioness Club**: Jacqueline Lace, Frances Meahl, Elizabeth Paul, Edith Roppolo, **Orange City Lions Club**: Everett Arnold, Edward A. Chopskie, Frank Cortezzo, Gerard Cottone, Vincent J. Delosso, Jr., Vincent J. Delosso, III, Richard Dodson, Charles Ezell, Peter Ferraro, Thomas Gibbons, Dave Gornatti, Dan Houlihan, Harry Johnson, O.M. Johnson, John Kidney, James Kile, Arthur W. Lucas, George Makuch, Donald A. Marrison, Michael Mastrianni, John Minosky, Robert D. Owens, Daniel Pagano, Don C. Perkins, Eugene Rowles, Larry Schauer, Michael L. Schauer, Robert J. Seymour, Salvatore Vento, Armando Viselli, David Watt, Francis A. Welch, Richard Zambuto, Salvatore Zambuto, Vincent Zambuto, **Palm Harbor II Lions Club**: Renee Sass, **Panama City Lions Club**: Fred F. Landgraf, Jr., J.G. "Gordon" Hindsman, Byron Danzey, Tom P. Haney, John P. "Johnny" Reaver, Joe L. Johnson, Jr., John S. Coleman, Sam Rowe, **Parkway Lions Club**: Mike Arnald, Pat Boevink, Robert Hendler, Brenda Hendricks, Alcin Parsons, **Phenix City Alabama Lions Club**: **Port Charlotte Lions Club**: Monica Walker, M.D., Eric Schaible, M.D., Richard Lewandowski, Robert Maring, William Albright, William Jerrett, Larry Parker, PDG, Art Raven, Robert Riordan, Lloyd Sutherland, Memorial – Lester English, **Sebring Lions Club**: Robert Scigliano, Peter Russo, Branch Ryan, **Seminole Lions Club**: Henry "Jake" & Betty Clark, Jack & Joan Hoffman, Ivan Eshleman, PDG; Ed & Eleanor Flinta, Wayne & Sharon Griffith, PDG; Harry & Marion Schindler, Paul & Barbara Andress, Charles & Evelyn Fortson, William "Bill" Glastetter, Lion T.E. "Duke" Doudna, Kent & Gretchen Ward, Jack & Eliz Kalmus, PDG, **South Seminole Lions Club**: Barbara J. McKenna, **Sun Center Lions Club**: John Smutko*

Future Florida Lion donations will be listed in the Florida Lions Magazine

Full Sponsorship

($9,000 or greater)

Anynomous – full sponsorship for a 1998 student, Estate of Helen Chapman – full sponsorship of Jackie Mayberry & " Katie", Estate of Eunice I. Dewsnap – full sponsorship of Tamika Polk & "Kane", Estate of Celia Giesenschlag – full sponsorship of Jenifer Burton & "Trapper", ILC Farms/Carol & Richard Beauchamp – full sponsorship of guide dog "Hal", Robert M. & Nedra E. Joyce – full sponsorship of Donna Hardy & guide dog "Phyllis", Mr. & Mrs. Francis McCune – full sponsorship of "Ellen" & "Kevin", Estate of Jane E. Phillis – full sponsorship of Norma Krauss & "Able", Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence E. Ruf – full sponsorship for a 1998 student, Don & Connie Smith – full sponsorship for a 1998 student, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church – full sponsorship for a 1998 student, Idell A. Walkoe – full sponsorship for a 1998 student, William C. Demetree, Jr., Foundation, Inc. – 2 full sponsorships for 1998 students

Puppy Sponsorships

($1,200 or greater)

Anonymous – to be announced, Alabama Power Service Organization – Charity/Major, American German Club of Lantana – to be announced, Auburn Advocates for Disability – Tiger, The Browning Family – Kayde, Cocoa Beach Seaside Lions Club – Fritz, Thor & Lorraine Erickson – Chance, D.R. Long Foundation – Sarah, Fort Lauderdale Lions Club – to be announced, Freedom Square – to be announced, Gordon Family Foundation – 4 sponsorships, Karen & Randy Lappi – Silver, John & Kris London – Keegan & Keely, McGowan Family – Honey, Manatee Eye Clinic – Iris, Nam-Knights of America, MC – Sammy, Navy Waves Florida Units – to be announced, L. George & Loris. A. Rosskam – Kanter, Sarasota Area Dirt Riders Assocation – SADRA, Sebring Lions – Radar, Robert & June Smedley – R.I.G.S., Don & Connie Smith – to be announced, St. Michael's Independent School – Mike, James & Jenifer Stewart – Stewart, Sullivan Family & Friends – Shadow, Sunshine H.O.G. Chapter – 2 sponsorships, The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit – Spirit, The Gibney Foundation – to be announced, Sam Wapnowitz – Sam, David P. Weber & Linda Ford – Cheyenne, James G. & Marion A. Wikoff – to be announced, Kathleen & R.M. Williams – Cinder

Co-Sponsorship

($500 or greater)

Nancy Allen – room & board for one student, Auxiliary of Manatee Memorial – room & board for three students, Bearcat Financial Services – room & board for one student, Ms. Gillian Brooks – room & board for one student, Harmony Health Care – co-sponsorship for North Carolina student, International Medical Laboratory – room & board for one student, Josephine W. Kixmiller – room & board for one student, May K. Houck Foundation – co-sponsorship of one student, Palm Harbor II Lions Club – room & board for one student, The Gibney Family Foundation – room & board for six students, Women's Sertoma Club – room & board for one student

Memorials

($100 donation in memory of those who have passed away)

Fritz Adams, June H. Armstrong, Wilberta R. Barrett, Ralph E. Bentrim, Marie L. Bittner, Gertrude G. Blalock, Jan Bowen, Dr. Thomas S. Brownell, Elmer Joseph Cooper, Helen Elizabeth Rook Fleming, Herbert G. Fowler, Loretta Freifed, Frank Garrett, Sr., David Garth Genter, Celia B. Giesenschlag, Gerald Gould, Margaret Owen Hildreth, Adeline R. Hoyt, Everett M. Keen, Jane J. Laird, Sarah E. Lamlein, Nell Lister, Virginia Mayer, Thomas G. Meyer, Dr. Mary Platz, Jerry Richter, Frank Ryerson, William E. Thomas, Peter W. Webster, Edward & Helen Welch, Marjory Helen Wellborn, Mary White, Virginia Wilhelm

Pet Memorials

($50 donation)

"Ben" – beloved friend of Lawrence & Virginia Pomeroy, "Champion Willobend's Grand Finale" – beloved friend of Mr. & Mrs. William T. Royal, "Freeway" – beloved friend of George & Carolina Kimball, "Friday" – beloved friend of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Beall, Jr., "Lady" – Dear, Gentle Soul – Ruth & Gene, "Lucy" – beloved friend of Roxanne Hovland, "Penny" & "Mandy" – beloved friends of Wanda & Gordon Yonker, "Ranger" – beloved pet of Jimmy Gibson, "Tessie", "Indy", "Dorrit", & "Rusty" – beloved friends of Isaac & Edith Eskenasy, "Stacy" – beloved friend of Helen McLane

Freedom Walk, continued from page 7

We encourage anyone who has not seen our school and Freedom Walk to schedule a tour through the Development Department and see for yourself what Freedom Walk is all about.

Your Legacy

Your support and belief in "The Gift of Mobility" can be expressed in a legacy left for those who follow. Please contact Southeastern Guide Dogs for information on how you can provide

A Promise for Tomorrow

Consult your attorney and be sure to use our full name and address when you

Remember Southeastern in your will.

A GIFT OF LOVE

DON'T FORGET...

Calendar of Events

Class II	2/9
Puppy Raiser Day	2/23
Walkathon	3/7
Class III	3/16
Lions District "O" Days	3/21
Puppy Raiser Day	3/30
Sarasota/Bradenton Airport Super Run	4/4
2nd Annual Golf Tournament	9/19

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"Paws For Independence" Newsletter

is published quarterly for supporters of Southeastern Guide Dog School.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit corporation devoted solely to the task of helping blind men and women find the travel independence that only a Southeastern bred and trained guide dog can give.

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Development Director: Kim Brown

Every reference to Southeastern, SEGD or Southeastern Guide Dogs is a direct reference to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.
4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221

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11 PENN PLAZA STE 300
NEW YORK, NY 10001-2006

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

"Paws For Independence" NEWSLETTER

Fall, 1998

Close Your Eyes... Now, Cross The Street

Imagine being blind, standing at one of the busiest intersections in Orlando. You've crossed it before with your cane, sweating every step of the way. Now you're crossing it with your guide dog and you feel confident for the very first time. That's what having a guide dog has done for you.

You listen for the flow of traffic, determine it's safe to cross, and give your guide dog the forward command. What you're not counting on is the "right turn on red" law. You forget how cars creep up, quietly. Drivers spot an opening and hit the accelerator to make that legal right turn. Suddenly you find that you and your guide dog are about to become a traffic statistic. You feel the little Lab blocking your way but you ignore the guide dog users rule that says that your dog has been trained to sacrifice itself for you. Without hesitating you reach down and scoop up the best thing that has ever happened to you.

At that moment, you are struck by the car. Sassy, your guide dog, still saves your life because you fall on her and she cushions you from the hard, cold pavement.

There are no written records on how many blind persons and their guide dogs have been struck in traffic in just this manner. Graduate Ralph Narducci found himself hospitalized for three days and incurred a bill of over $10,000. He suffered injuries to his hip and back. Sassy suffered in another way. Although not physically hurt, she began to "overcompensate" any time she was out with Ralph. She blocked him from anyone or anything. Fortunately, with the help of Rick Holden, Southeastern's Director of Training, Sassy has recovered. Rick explained to Ralph that because Sassy wasn't able to do her job - block Ralph from the impact at the moment of the accident - she felt the need to

Ralph Narducci and Sassy

make it up to him and do her job constantly. Ralph and Sassy have managed to work through this and Sassy is back to doing her job correctly. Unfortunately Ralph is still attempting to overcome his fear of intersections, something he had mastered once he and Sassy became partners.

When Ralph was released from the hospital he learned to his amazement that the driver of the vehicle had not been cited for hitting him and Sassy. Wanting to learn why the driver went unpunished Ralph researched Florida laws and with the help of graduate Marian Gwizdala of Brandon, found out that there is recourse for the blind person. It's called the White Cane Law and it's an extension of the pedestrian right-of-way law.

The White Cane Law (s. 316.1301) states that a blind person with a guide dog or using a white cane has the right of way at any intersection on any stretch of Florida roadway at all times. Drivers who fail to yield for blind pedestrians can be cited for a moving violation punishable by a fine of up to $250. The driver who struck Ralph and Sassy was not cited for this infraction due to the fact that very few people in the state of Florida, including many visually impaired, police officers, the sheriff's department, the state attorney, city council — even the judge who tried his case — knew about this law.

Ralph has now made it his personal mission to inform as many people, law enforcement agencies, service groups and the like about this important law. It is through Ralph's efforts that further attention has been brought to White Cane Awareness Day.

Ralph is blind due to diabetic neuropathy. Although insulin dependent for most of his life, he didn't address the seriousness of his disease and one day, while visiting his sister and walking on the beach, everything went "white." He can see very slightly in one eye and has mastered the ability to work around his disability. But after training at the Center for the Visually Impaired in Daytona Ralph realized that he couldn't count on his cane. He also broke into a cold sweat every time he approached an intersection and had to cross a busy road.

Ralph and Sassy, continued on page 2

Inside This Issue...

Freedom Walk Update .....page 2
Donors & Sponsors .....page 2
The Freedom Legacy .....page 3

Web Site: **http://www.guidedogs.org**
E-mail: **segd@bhip.infi.net**

Ralph and Sassy, continued from page 1

Ralph and Sassy were paired at Southeastern Guide Dogs in 1997 and have been a team since they met. His love for Sassy knows no bounds. She built his self-confidence, has become his companion and given him freedom he could never realize with the cane. All the while Sassy works with a tail that never stops wagging. She just loves her job.

The accident that nearly cost Ralph and Sassy their lives has created a new purpose for a man who lost his livelihood when blindness took over. Ralph wants to make sure no other blind person has to go through what Sassy and he experienced the day they were struck in the intersection in Orlando. Ralph wants drivers to understand their responsibilities towards the visually impaired. But at least Ralph isn't working alone.

He has Sassy.

Freedom Walk Update

New Phases:

New phases of Freedom Walk have been completed and this training concept/campus enhancement has greatly benefited our facility. New additions include winding pathways that challenge the students as they learn to work with and, particularly, to follow their guide dogs as they lead the way.

All types of challenging obstacles are part of the new phases. They include parking meters, fire hydrants, gates, mailboxes, and light poles. There is also an authentic bus stop on a corner location complete with benches and a covered waiting area.

The new sections of Freedom Walk also include surface changes to the pathway and wood bridges as well as "blended" curbs. Animal and people distractions are abundant during puppy walking time as students share Freedom Walk with our volunteers. With the inclusion of these new obstacles and additions, students can practice safe "landmark" travel as they improve and polish their skills while attending the campus program.

Freedom Walk Phase II bus stop and wooden bridge.

Open House

Sponsored by:
The Bradenton Lions Club

- Tours
- Puppies to hug!
- Working dog demonstrations
- Craft vendors
- Good food

November 15th, 1998
10 am to 3 pm
FREE Admission!

Held at: Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.
4210 77th St. East, Palmetto, FL 34221
Information: (941) 729-5665

Thanks for Sharing the Gift...

Contributions acknowledged through 6/30/98

Life Membership/ Freedom Walk

(any gift of $100 or greater to our endowment trust qualifies for both a life membership and a brick on Freedom Walk)

American Legion Post 284, Kay & Mike Anderson, Harry, Laura & Jenna Ash, Econo Lodge, Arlie Ellen Elliott, Cheryl C. Miller, Merry Christmas Schoch

Freedom Walk - Memorials

($100 donation for a memorial brick on Freedom Walk)

Delbert and Katherine Collins – In Memory of Cora Young, Lee V. and Lieselotte A Watts – In Memory of "Maxie"

Park Benches

($1,200 donation to Freedom Walk)

May K. Houck Foundation

Memorials

($100 donation in memory of those who have passed away)

Kathleen Armstrong, Sprague Fuller, Timothy D. Hill, Keith & Dorothy Lance, Alice Miller, Marie McComas, Raymond Moore

Full Sponsorship

($9,000 or greater)

Bob & Nedra Joyce – full sponsorship of Michelle Tanner & "Pioneer"

Co-Sponsorship

($500 or greater)

Houck Foundation – co-sponsorship of a guide dog team, Mintz Elementary School – room & board sponsorship

Walkathon Puppy Sponsorships - 1998

Debbie & Chuck Hietala – "Magic", Nancy Marie-Luce – "to be announced", Panama City Puppy Raisers – "to be announced", Phyllis Ulrich – "to be announced"

Puppy Sponsorships

($1,200 or greater)

Nick Colantonio – "Mary Penkala", Chuck & Kay Daugherty – "Kaylee", Richard & Jean Dixon – "Jesse", Fort Walton Beach Medical Center Auxiliary – "Belle", Jim & Marie Gasser – "Edna", Murray Middle School Builders Club – "Nala"

Future donations will be acknowledged annually in our Fall newsletter, beginning in 1999.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®

Paws for Independence®

1997 Annual Report

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past year has been, once again, a very positive year for the School as we continue to grow and augment our seasoned staff. The Board is proud to announce that the financial health of the School is on firm footing and continues to improve. This is a great tribute to the integrity of our administration, the quality and loyalty of our graduates, and the never-ending support of countless people throughout our community – local, state and regional. My congratulations to Mike Sergeant and his entire team of professionals.

The Board of the School continues to provide guidance and leadership for Mike and his staff. They are a uniquely dedicated group with many members driving two or three hours to attend meetings with remarkable consistency. Please remember that all our Board members serve our school without any compensation.

The Board members and staff were saddened by the loss of two long-standing members. Rufus Mumford, who has been memorialized in many ways throughout the School and in several wonderful articles in the newsletter will be sorely missed. Lion Herb Breslaw served the School almost from its inception. He has left behind fond memories for all of us who continue to serve as we remember his unique contributions to each and every meeting. He will also be memorialized at the School in recognition of his years of selfless service.

What are our plans for the new century? We hope and plan that our School will provide more opportunity for the blind as we set in place infrastructure that will allow for more graduates in the years to come. Advanced planning is required as we add the human resources so vital to achieve this goal. Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. now has a firm footing in North Carolina. We will continue to put resources in this program in order to satisfy a growing need that is best served by a local presence.

The primary campus is nearly complete. The final build-out is in the works and will consist, most likely, of a large field house structure. This will allow an all-weather facility to facilitate training and other campus functions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we thank the staff for its dedication and fine work. We thank Mike Sergeant for his superb leadership. Most of all we thank all of our supporters from around the country for their continued financial support and our volunteers for their many hours of dedication and service to our school.

Sincerely,

Harris Silverman, M.D.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We've closed the chapter on our fiscal year, proud once again of our efforts. Each year seems to provide new challenges as we strive to meet our goals. This year was no less challenging. While we moved forward in positive directions, we also suffered the loss of some of the cornerstones of our organization. The deaths of two long-term board members followed by the loss of our number one canine ambassador and foundation sire was offset by the fact that Southeastern's foundation is firm. Groundwork had been laid with planning and foresight and we are able to continue to meet our goals and mission with complete confidence.

The loss of two of our longest-term board members was a terrific blow, but they had spent their years with us planning our future – a future we are seeing more clearly every day. Southeastern not only has added staff members this past year, we've added experienced people as well. We celebrated the hard work of three employees who celebrated 10 years with the organization. Their devotion and loyalty are greatly appreciated. Their experience helped guide yet another tenacious apprentice towards completion of her program and achieving the sought-after title of Trainer/Instructor.

Southeastern has worked very hard to establish certain programs to make our services available to every person who needs us. During our fiscal year we watched our Outreach program in North Carolina grow and flourish. We fine-tuned our Special Needs program and were able to give hope and independence to candidates who believed there was no hope available to them. We pride ourselves on the viability of our services and will continue to work to improve them.

Who thought that people who were incarcerated could ever contribute to society in a positive way again? Our Impact program, currently in place in two prison systems, has shown us that there is hope for these inmates. Not to mention the fact that they have provided us with some excellent working dogs. The success of this program led us to establish groundwork this past year for two additional Impact programs in two new states.

Those little building blocks of our guide dog program, called puppies, experienced a population explosion here at Southeastern second only to the baby boomer generation. Although we lost one of our greatest contributors to the gene pool in the form of our foundation stud dog, Freedom, his greatest assets are being continued through his progeny.

Those other building blocks – called supporters and contributors – complete our efforts this past fiscal year. As our programs grew and touched so many, even more joined our family as supporters and volunteers. Without their dedication and belief in our mission, the house would come tumbling down.

We're on course for the new millennium, stronger than ever. This is only because wisdom, foresight and courage were invested in the early years. This past year, relying on the strength of our foundation, we continued to build the organization and its programs. Our greatest strength, however, is a strong belief in ourselves and doing only the best that we are capable of doing. At Southeastern, we know no other way.

R. Michael Sergeant

Executive Director, C.O.O.

THE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Outreach observed the conclusion of its first fiscal year on both a positive and a promising note. In addition to increasing its efforts in the community, positive inroads were made towards reaching new goals.

27 puppy raisers in the North Carolina Outreach Program volunteered their efforts.

15 students were serviced through Outreach

11 applicants are currently awaiting Outreach services

29 follow-ups were done within the Outreach areas of North and South Carolina

44 home interviews were done for both puppy raisers and possible applicants

31 presentations and demos were done by Outreach.

Outreach is looking forward to continued growth and success with their program.

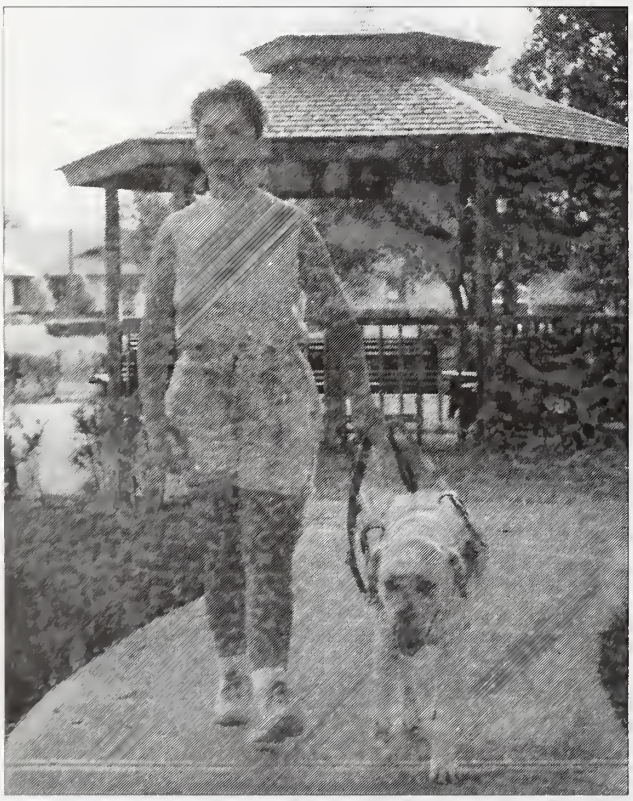
Student and trainer from the North Carolina Outreach Program

THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Development Department remained very busy during the past fiscal year keeping the public informed about the work of Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. 155 presentations were scheduled by the Special Events Coordinator. Many more presentations were made by dedicated volunteers, graduates and puppy raisers averaging at least one demo per day across the country.

A new touring schedule was introduced this year in order to meet the demand of those interested in seeing the Southeastern facility first hand. Tours are now being conducted three days a week. A total of 211 tours were held with over 2,200 interested individuals visiting our campus.

Volunteers such as dog walkers, puppy huggers, office help, Paws for Love participants, drivers and kitchen assistants logged 8,486 hours. Volunteer hours do not include the work of Puppy Raisers or service groups who assist us off-site.



Freedom Walk – Phase I

Special accomplishments during the 1997 – 98 fiscal year include the introduction of the first SEGD Golf Tournament. The event was so successful it was established as an annual event.

Phases II and III of Freedom Walk were completed. The Southeastern endowment fund was strengthened and the new phases provided valuable training resources for the students.

The Friends of Southeastern was instituted at a gathering in Naples, Florida. This program brought together a small group of interested individuals to learn about the work of SEGD. The program is currently being developed for introduction in other cities.

Finally, a solid Gift Annuity Program was established and is now functioning well.

GRADUATE SERVICES

This year Graduate Services has been busy in a variety areas, including Home Placements, Special Needs and interaction with Outreach. The Graduate Services program also assists former students when they must return for a replacement guide dog.

Home Placement, an extremely successful program for Southeastern, sends a Trainer/Instructor with dog to the home-based area of the student. This program has been successfully utilized most particularly by graduates who are in need of their second, third or fourth dog as they have mastered the campus-based program and only need to "fine tune" their new guide dog for its duties in a new location.

Special Needs addresses the requirements of a select group of students including working professionals, mothers with small children, senior citizens with health concerns as well as the multiply-handicapped. These students are unable to leave the home area easily, so Southeastern Trainers and guide dogs are sent to them and our program is taught in their environment adapting to their scheduling requirements and personal abilities.

Southeastern's Graduate Services program is unique because its Director is also a Trainer/Instructor. Graduate Services begins with the first day of class, but doesn't end when the student leaves. In addition to addressing the needs of graduates as they begin their new lives away from Southeastern, the Director of Graduate Service works closely with students and staff while they are participating in their classes.

Graduate Services is also fortunate to have four volunteers who routinely dedicate one or more days a week to be part of this valuable, necessary program.

Graduate Services accomplishments include:

Classes conducted	6
Blind candidates serviced	106
Special Needs placements	32
Home Placements	18
Out-of-state placements	30
Different states serviced	12
Replacement dogs furnished	22
Inquiries received	316
Applications processed	175

THE BREEDING PROGRAM

During fiscal year 1997 – 98 the Breeding Program made great progress in fulfilling the needs of future students with the birth of 216 puppies. The program was also pleased to accept the donation of 8 top quality puppies that met our very specific criteria.

Southeastern's future guide dogs include:

141 Labrador Retrievers	23 litters
49 Labrador/ Golden Retriever cross	6 litters
16 Australian Shepherds	4 litters/3 donated
9 Vizslas	1 litter/1 donated
6 Smooth Collies	1 litter/3 donated
3 Golden Retrievers	1 litter/1 donated

BREEDING STOCK

Southeastern continues to select only the finest representatives of the breed to be used for breeding stock. Dogs that are healthy, temperamentally and structurally sound, loyal as well as highly trainable ensure that Southeastern can continue to provide quality guide dogs to their students.

Our current breeding stock includes:

Breed	Female	Male
Labrador Retriever	30	12
Australian Shepherd	2	3
Smooth Coated Collie	2	0
Vizsla	1	1
Golden Retriever	1	3
German Shepherd	0	1

THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT

The Training Department continues to focus its efforts on training top-notch guide dogs available to students through the Campus Program, Home Placement or Outreach. Staff additions increased the department to 25; eighteen full-time employees and seven weekend staff members. The Training Department was fortunate to add to its ranks an experienced trainer. Another hard-working apprentice completed the three-year apprenticeship program and became a qualified Trainer/Instructor. Qualified Instructors on our staff now numbers eleven. All Trainer/Instructors participate in dog training, class instruction, Home Placements, home interviews and graduate follow-up work.

The Training Department was also fortunate to add some much-needed equipment. The addition of a new class bus brings our total to two. The new vehicle can carry up to nine students with dogs plus two instructors. Another mini-van was added to the fleet. This vehicle is being used for roadwork and follow-up. The Outreach program in North Carolina received a full-size training van. Four of our current training vans were upgraded with generators that power three fans in each vehicle. These fans provide constant airflow throughout the vehicle making the van more comfortable for dogs awaiting training. The generators also ensure use of the vehicles in case of emergencies involving evacuations.

With the completion of the latest phases of Freedom Walk the Training Department is now able to expand the class routes on grounds. This enables the students to practice additional distance and obstacle work.

THE PUPPY DEPARTMENT

A total of 216 puppies were birthed and 8 donated to the puppy program this year. This created a need for more puppy raisers and the addition of a second, full-time administrative assistant to handle the increase in departmental activity.

The Director of the Puppy Department "hit the road," traveling over 25,000 miles throughout the southeastern United States. She visited with puppy raisers and graduates, coached raisers and picked up dogs returning for training. The Director also conducted interviews with potential students as well as performing follow-ups and agency work.

An increase in puppy numbers created an increase in the number of raiser families – over 200 on average – who needed assistance by staff and volunteer area coordinators. Bi-monthly meetings with puppy raiser groups were introduced in cities that have large numbers of puppy raisers, such as Tampa, Orlando and Sarasota/ Bradenton. The purpose of the second meeting per month is to work with a smaller group of puppy raisers for obedience conditioning and socialization.

At total of three District Meetings and one annual Area Coordinator meeting was held to train our Puppy Program area coordinators.

The Senior Puppy Program was studied and developed further. This program introduces 10 month old guide dog puppies to the harness.

Participation of additional correctional facilities raising guide dog puppies was given serious consideration with an eye towards opening the program in new states.

A new 4-H group from Steinatachee, Florida joined Southeastern's puppy raising group this past year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gene Beckstein
Pat Cowan
Leon P. Ford
William Forrest
William C. Gaar
Stuart Grout
Ray McCabe
William E. Middlebrooks, Jr.
Robert Sherman
Harris Silverman, M.D.
Don M. Smith

OFFICERS

Harris Silverman, M.D., President
William C. Gaar, Treasurer
Robert Sherman, Secretary
R. Michael Sergeant, Executive Director

SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 1998

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	$225,640
Bequests, trusts and estates receivable	360,222
Property and equipment, net	2,412,688
Long term investments	471,112
Cash restricted for long-term investments	125,041
Cash restricted for gift annuity liability	49,331
Cash restricted for investment in land improvements	227,091
Total Assets	$3,871,125

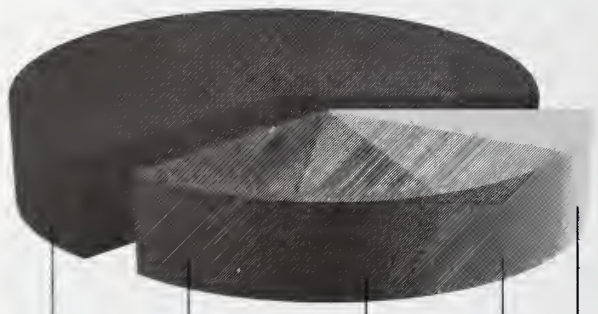
Liabilities $148,749

Net Assets

Unrestricted	$2,899,132
Temporarily restricted	227,091
Permanently restricted	596,153

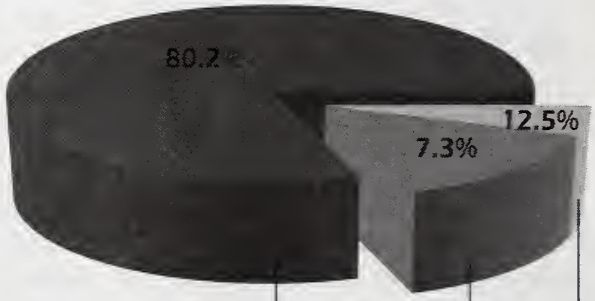
Total Liabilities & Net Assets $3,871,125

1997 –1998 SUPPORT & REVENUE



$1,250,524 Individuals
$159,303 Lions Clubs
$212,285 Foundations
$170,399 Special Events
$214,535 Other
$2,007,046 Total Support and Revenue

1997 –1998 EXPENSES



$1,421,189 Programs
$128,944 Fundraising
$221,259 Administration
$1,771,392 Total Expenses

Lions Affiliated Project

ICA Independent Charities of America
Share The American Way

A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF ANIMAL FUNDS OF AMERICA

The Freedom Legacy

On July 2, 1998 we lost Freedom. And we mean "we." Because Freedom was more than a dog; he was the cornerstone, the foundation on which this guide dog school was laid. He contributed more than puppies, he contributed a legacy; one that will probably never be duplicated.

Freedom's siring record began in 1987 with his first litter. It continued until 1995 when, at the age of 9 he sired 3 litters. During the 8 years he was used as a stud he sired a total of 200 puppies. Of that number, 118 went on to become working guide dogs and 24 joined the breeding program. Two pups were sent to other guide dog schools in an exchange program.

His legacy continues with his offspring. Freedom has 7 daughters and 4 sons that are active in the breeding program. 12 granddaughters and 2 grandsons are currently producing for Southeastern. He even has 3 great-granddaughters and 2 great-grandsons that are currently contributing to the breeding program.

Freedom, however, was more than a great sire. He was a marvelous ambassador for the school. He greeted all guests and visitors upon their arrival, and accompanied many while they toured. He was generally the first canine face most people saw upon arriving at the school, and he left everyone he met with a positive impression. He discriminated against no one and loved everyone. And everyone loved him.

Freedom
1986 – 1998

A special Memorial is being established in Freedom's honor. Contributions to the fund are being used to maintain the sound lines established by Freedom, and being carried on by his offspring. Maintaining a breeding program involves more than feeding and caring for breeding dogs. The school is investing in its future by using some of the most up-to-date breeding methods currently available. These include artificial insemination, use of frozen and chilled semen and purchasing additional breeding stock complementary to Freedom's heritage. What Freedom has done for Southeastern Guide Dogs is sire puppies that are capable of the rigors of guide dog work, possess sound temperament and a loyal nature.

In his honor the name "Freedom" has been retired. Freedom, however, will never be forgotten. For those of you who have also lost valued pets and companions, perhaps you can take heart with these words, penned by an anonymous writer. They have served as consolation to anyone who has lost a dog or special pet.

Rainbow Bridge

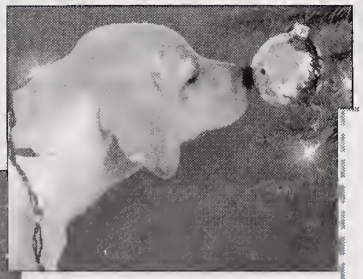
Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water, and sunshine and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who have been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the

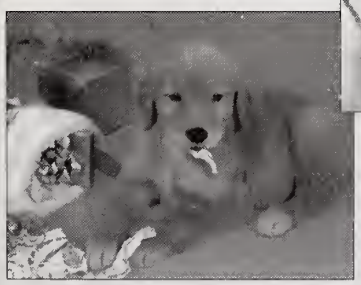
Freedom, continued on page 4

1998 Holiday Cards

$9.75 per dozen includes postage

A beautiful assortment of TWO new holiday cards with both braille and written inscriptions!





All proceeds benefit Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®

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Fax orders: (941) 729-6646
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Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.®
4210 77th Street East Palmetto, FL 34221

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please send me _____ dozen holiday cards!

☐ My personal check or money order is enclosed for $ _____

☐ Please charge my ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Account # _____

Signature: _____ Expires: _____

Freedom, continued from page 3

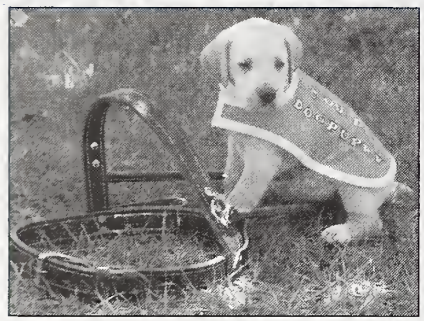
distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body begins to quiver. Suddenly, he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster. You have been spotted and when you and your special friend finally met, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart. Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together...

Dedicated to the memory of Freedom, and all the pets whom we love dearly and have lost, who will be waiting for us at the Rainbow Bridge.

Your Legacy

Your support and belief in "The Gift of Mobility" can be expressed in a legacy left for those who follow. Please contact Southeastern Guide Dogs for information on how you can provide

A Promise for Tomorrow



Consult your attorney and be sure to use our full name and address when you

Remember Southeastern in your will.

A GIFT OF LOVE

DON'T FORGET...

Calendar of Events

Class II-Fy 98-99 ..... October 12
Puppy Raiser Day ..... October 24
Open House..... November 15
Class III-Fy 98-99 ..... January 4
Walkathon ..... March 6, 1999

A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF ANIMAL FUNDS OF AMERICA

ICA Independent Charities of America

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"Paws For Independence" Newsletter

is published quarterly for supporters of Southeastern Guide Dog School.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit corporation devoted solely to the task of helping blind men and women find the travel independence that only a Southeastern bred and trained guide dog can give.

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